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THE INDEPENDENT

2,998

TUESDAY 28 MAY 1996

WEATHER Dry start, showers later 40p (R 45p)

For beef, Major and St George

'Independent' poll reveals:
■ Most of us back Prime Minister in BSE battle
■ Tory voters think we should hit back at Germany
■ Nearly half of all voters are ready to threaten to pull out of Europe altogether



Milk marketing: Cows belonging to Solihull farmer Harry Goode have been turned into mobile advertising hoardings after he was unable to sell them. Photograph: Newstream

JOHN RENTOU
Political Correspondent

Conservative supporters want the Prime Minister to disrupt European Union business and to retaliate against Germany, according to an NOP poll for the Independent.
If John Major heeds their message he could be driven to escalate the "beef war", which would risk his Commons majority, as the Tory MP George Walden has warned that he would have to consider his position in that event.
Tory voters overwhelmingly support the Prime Minister's campaign to disrupt Brussels business, with 77 per cent saying he was "right" to embark on it. Even when opposition supporters are included, there remains firm support for the Government's stance, with 54 per cent of the whole sample supporting the campaign to frustrate EU work, and only 33 per cent opposing it.

Most Tory supporters (62 per cent) said they would ban German imports if the beef ban stays. Half of Tory voters want to threaten to pull out of the European Union altogether.
Public opinion as a whole is evenly split on whether to retaliate against German imports, with 47 per cent in favour and 45 per cent against. And voters generally are only narrowly opposed to the idea that, if the ban stays, Britain should threaten to withdraw from the EU: that option was opposed by a margin of 47 to 43 per cent.
Those findings imply that while Mr Major's battle with Brussels may be popular with the core Tory constituency, it may not help improve the Government's popularity among floating and other voters.
And the Government came under swift pressure yesterday at the first sign of retreat.

Roger Freeman, the Public Service minister, charged with BSE eradication, backed off the idea that a timetable for lifting the beef ban would form part of talks with EU partners. He said on BBC radio: "We have said we want a framework. We don't want a detailed timetable that inevitably by a certain date certain things must happen."
Jacques Santer, President of the EU Commission, on Sunday ruled out a timetable for lifting the ban. The ban on gelatin, tallow and semen will be lifted next week, he said, but ministers admit the main ban on beef exports may still be in place at the end of the year.
John Redwood, last year's Tory leadership challenger, said yesterday: "Farmers and persons in the meat business would expect a timetable for the re-

maintaining threat to their jobs and businesses to be lifted before the Government resumes normal co-operation with Europe."

The scale of anti-EU sentiment revealed by the poll was described as "worrying" by Mr Waldo, the Tory MP who on Sunday threatened to bring the Government down if it escalated the beef war. He said: "This makes it all the more important that anyone who has doubts [about the Government's strategy] should speak out. It is possible to take a strong line without misleading people as to what can be achieved and what the options are. There is no option of forcing the Germans to eat our beef. There is no option of leaving Europe."
Mr Major will enter dangerous political waters if there are no signs by the end of the month that the main beef ban will be lifted. He has made it clear that he would not countenance any action - such as banning German imports - which is illegal, despite pressure from Tory right-wingers to ignore European law.

He has no choice but to see it through."

In a newspaper article today Mr Walden compares Mr Major to "the man who thought he was leading the crowd and looked round to find they were chasing him".

Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, is expected to say today that the Government's aim should be a complete lifting of the ban by the Florence summit on 23 June.

NOP interviewed by telephone a representative quota sample of 1,005 people aged 15+ on 24 and 26 May.

More poll findings tomorrow: Is Blair ready for government?

(All figures are percentages. Tory, Lab and LD refer to respondents' usual political allegiance)

	Total	Tory	Lab	LD
Is the Prime Minister right or wrong to disrupt EU business to try to get the ban lifted?				
Right	54	77	38	56
Wrong	33	16	46	32
Don't know	13	7	15	12

	Total	Tory	Lab	LD
If the ban is not lifted, do you think Britain should retaliate by banning imports from Germany?				
Right	47	62	39	42
Wrong	45	31	54	52
Don't know	7	6	7	5

	Total	Tory	Lab	LD
If the ban is not lifted, do you think Britain should threaten to withdraw from the EU?				
Right	43	50	39	43
Wrong	47	41	53	49
Don't know	10	9	8	8

Hanging on (and on, and on, and on)

NO MOVES

Comprehensible and "robotic" operators, endless time left dangling with no one to talk to and the incessant tinkling of electronic muzak. No, it's not a Dennis Potter tale of futuristic hell - you've just tried to call your local utility office.
A survey by monitoring organisation Telecom found that in 2,000 calls made to 101 utilities offices, 22 local authorities and 100 private sector companies, the utilities turned in a "disgraceful" performance.
The results showed a widespread inability to grasp even the basics of telephone use, such as a failure to greet the caller.
"We always suggest saying 'good morning' because people don't hear the first few words on the telephone. They need time to tune in and hear the useful information, like the company name," said Joanne Gascoigne, business development manager at Telecom.
But companies who did use a formal greeting were often just as unsuccessful. The survey said: "At times a laudable attempt at good customer relations ended in lengthy introductions such as 'Good morning British Gas service. Heaters speaking how can I help you?' at breakneck speed."
Other utility companies, it said, "popped callers with a rapid burst of verbal grapefruit" such as "Name? What address?"



Which area? In quick succession. Rapid speech often reduced sentences to a stream of one-worders while the tone was often "off-hand or wooden" or "robotic and abrupt".
It also suggests voice-messaging and interactive voice-response devices, a massive growth market in Britain, are not as effective as previously thought. A third of all offices offered "music-while-you-wait" or recorded messages of the "You are held in a queue" variety, and the majority of callers were left waiting for an unacceptable length of time.
According to Ms Gascoigne, customers are increasingly irritated by electronic queuing and voice-mail systems and are voting with their receivers. Callers, she said, prefer a "warm body" response. "People do respond

badly to those mechanised voices. If you're being held in a queue you're paying for it. And if the companies know they've got a problem with time-and-answer, why don't they address it?"
Overall the survey found that only 19 per cent of electricity offices, 10 per cent of water offices and 8 per cent of gas offices provided an "acceptable" telephone service, compared with 40 per cent of local authorities.
In terms of the quality of responses, the utility companies performed even worse. Not one gas or water office and only 2 per cent of electricity offices answered queries acceptably, compared with 64 per cent of local authorities.
But then simply speaking to your local utility office is often an achievement in itself, it seems. In the survey 93 per cent of all calls to British Gas in Leeds were abandoned. A spokesman for Ofgas said he was aware of complaints about service, but suggested the problem could be partly due to its recent split into four companies.
This year sees a new section in the 1995-6 Ofwat annual report, to monitor the ease with which customers can make contact with their water company.
Only Scottish Power provided a "consistently excellent" service in the tests carried out earlier this year - perhaps unsurprising in a company that has just launched its own telecom service.

QUICKLY

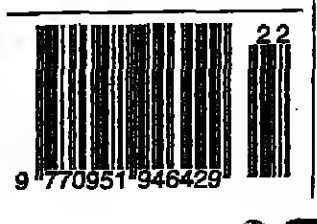
Not cricket
Ray Illingworth, the chairman of England cricket selectors, is to face a disciplinary committee over comments he made in a book serialised in a national newspaper last week. Page 22

Legal lesson
Head teachers want parents to be forced to sign legally binding contracts preventing them from abusing or attacking teachers. Page 6

Beardsley sidelined
Newcastle's Peter Beardsley and Gary Pallister of Manchester United will not be included in Terry Venables' squad for Euro 96. Page 22

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Yeltsin wins ceasefire in Chechnya

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin yesterday boasted of achieving a "historic" agreement after signing a ceasefire deal with the Chechen leader in Moscow.
It is unclear how long the proclaimed ceasefire will last, but the agreement is a political coup for the Russian President. Russia has been mired in the conflict in Chechnya for 17 months and the war has been a political millstone around Mr Yeltsin's neck. The deal comes just ahead of presidential elections on 16 June.
"This is a historic day, a historic moment," Mr Yeltsin said last night, after signing the deal with Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, successor to Dzhokhar Dudayev, who led Chechnya's bid for independence and was killed in a Russian rocket attack last month.
Both sides avoided the most difficult issue - Chechnya's demands for independence, which remain on the table. Chechen leaders continue to talk of secession. Moscow, on the other hand, treats Chechnya as part of the Russian Federation.
The deal provides for a halt to military activity, an exchange of all prisoners within two weeks, and further negotiations to end the conflict. Previous deals on the exchange of prisoners have foundered amidst much recrimination. Both sides have regularly renewed no agreements. Last summer, a plan to disarm the Chechens as Russian troops withdrew, was quickly forgotten.
Both sides seemed tense during yesterday's signing of the ceasefire document, whose exact contents were not revealed. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, could be heard to say: "Just sign it, what's the difference?" in reply to a remark from the Chechen side of the table.
Mr Yeltsin said he would give the order for an end to military activities to the Interior Minister, Anatoly Kulikov, and the Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev. Mr Grachev, who was not at the signing, last week seemed furious that the war was being wound down before the final defeat of the Chechens.
Mr Yeltsin said that the problem of peace had now been "resolved". Asked about whether the deal would stick, he insisted that "we are unanimous".
Once a new Russian president is elected, he would, however, be less susceptible to public opinion and could decide to wage an indefinite war.
Poll boost, page 9

WHERE TO ACQUIRE A TASTE FOR OYSTERS

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news

Prescott could rule the regions

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

The bid by John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, for elbow room in a future Cabinet intensified yesterday, as his allies speculated about a role as "governor of the English regions" equivalent to Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.

A source close to Mr Prescott confirmed that Tony Blair, the Labour leader, was discussing changes to the structure of Whitehall ministries, and that the deputy leader saw an opportunity for a top-level job bringing together the economic regeneration efforts of several departments.

"It is still being discussed, but there are a number of ways of pushing the goal of full em-

ployment, which was John's theme in the leadership election," the source said.

The plan could spark new conflict with Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, whose grip on economic policy has caused friction in the Shadow Cabinet. Mr Prescott warned against an all-powerful "super Treasury" in a speech two weeks ago.

A Prescott supporter tried yesterday to suggest a mutually acceptable division of responsibility, with Mr Brown responsible for macro-economic policy (taxes, public spending and interest rates) and Mr Prescott handling micro-economics (labour markets and company-level policy).

But he skirted round the most glaring doubt hanging over Mr Prescott's status in a

Labour government: would he inherit Michael Heseltine's Deputy Prime Minister title? "I'm sure John would like to do that job," he said.

The real question is what departmental responsibility Mr Prescott would have. The supporter pointed out that the work of four government departments, transport, trade, environment and the employment functions of the Education Department, were already co-ordinated in 10 regional centres in England.

These could be answerable either directly to Mr Prescott, or to a Cabinet committee chaired by him, like the present committee chaired by Mr Heseltine.

A spokeswoman for Mr Prescott said: "John thinks the

leader will decide who he wants in which job at the appropriate time. That's a rule that applies to everyone and John is quite happy with that."

A spokesman for Mr Blair said these were decisions that would be made in government.

Another tension was resolved yesterday when party officials confirmed that Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, will "phase himself out of the transport team" to take up a campaign role. Mr Wilson, who has clashed semi-publicly with Clare Short, the shadow Secretary of State for Transport, will assume responsibility for the party's computer database, to be used for US-style "instant rebuttal" of Tory propaganda.

"We needed a lively politician with a journalistic mind to front

the rebuttal operation and take political responsibility for it," said a Labour official. Mr Wilson will answer to Mr Brown, who has overall responsibility for campaigning.

News of Mr Wilson's appointment came as Tory Central Office confirmed that it had acquired exactly the same computer software, a database system called Excalibur, as the Labour Party.

The Independent revealed last week that Excalibur had been donated to Labour by millionaire supporter Philip Jeffrey, in order to use the party's experience to sell it as a commercial product.

A Tory spokesman said yesterday that it would run on more sophisticated hardware than Labour's, at a cost of £500,000.



Prescott: 'Leader will decide'



High life: Richard Owen, mayor of Beaumaris, north Wales, climbs across a farmhouse roof as part of the ancient "beating the bounds" ritual in the town. Once every seven years, local statute requires the mayor to "perambulate the boundaries". As the farmhouse straddles the borough boundary, the mayor has to climb over the top. Photograph: Rob Stratton

New meningitis scare

PAUL FIELD

Another British child was last night feared to have contracted meningitis in Majorca, the fifth to have fallen victim to the disease while holidaying on the Spanish island.

The six-year-old girl, who has not yet been named, may only have a cold, but was put under observation in Palma's Son Doreta hospital where five-year-old Michaela Loyland is being treated for the disease.

Majorca's director general of health, Dr Gines Martina Pina, said Michaela was stable. Her family, from Merseyside, were on a package holiday with

friends at the resort of Magaluf when she became the fourth child to be struck down.

Last Monday Christopher Richards, 13, from Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, died after contracting meningitis at the Alcadia Pina apartment complex on the north coast. Dr Pina said the six-year-old was staying with her parents in the resort of Cala Millor when they became worried about her and took her to a doctor.

He repeated his controversial view that British tourists had imported the disease. "Our health authorities are becoming increasingly convinced that this is the case," he said.

Ulster poll: Trimble clashes with rivals as new group makes novel impact

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The previously low-key Northern Ireland election campaign finally flared into life yesterday as angry attacks and recriminations broke out among the major unionist parties.

Voters go to the polls on Thursday to elect a 10-member forum, which will supply most of the negotiators for the inter-party talks due to open on 10 June.

The outbreak of verbal jousting appears to have its origin in worries within David Trimble's Ulster Unionist party that its campaign is not going well. Reports are circulating that

rival parties, principally the Rev Ian Paisley's DUP and Robert McCartney's UK Unionists, are making a strong showing.

A poor performance for Mr Trimble would represent a serious blow to his credibility, in that he is regarded as the prime mover in pressing the Government to hold the election in the first place. The various parties involved sought to portray rivals as being unsound on the issue of the union.

Mr Trimble's party yesterday called a news conference to warn voters against fracturing the unionist vote, in the process launching a strong attack on Mr

Paisley. John Taylor MP accused the DUP of "playing straight into the hands of Dublin", while Mr Trimble said Mr Paisley had formed an unholy alliance with John Hume's SDLP for the purpose of doing down the Ulster Unionists.

Mr Paisley, in a swift response, accused Mr Trimble of selling the pass by, he said, being prepared to put the 1920 Government of Ireland Act, which set up the state of Northern Ireland, on the negotiating table. He said Mr Trimble "dreaded" the DUP, adding: "He's not happy because he's losing out in this election."

Mr McCartney, of the small-

er UK Unionists, said Mr Trimble had turned down his suggestion of a united unionist front to fight the elections. Mr Trimble retorted: "Mr McCartney doesn't tell you that he broke off the discussion and rushed out of the door, pausing only to discharge an epithet in my direction."

With almost a dozen pro-union parties standing in the election, one unionist nightmarish scenario is that the vote would splinter in such a way that the SDLP could, for the first time ever, win most votes. While not affecting any future negotiations, such an outcome would represent a major psychological setback for unionism.

Coalition unites behind peace

Religious and social barriers have been cast aside, writes David McKittrick

Probably the most cheerful, relaxed and apparently self-confident of the 20-odd groupings contesting Thursday's forum elections in Northern Ireland is one of the most unorthodox—the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition.

The hastily-assembled association is attracting much attention, partly because of its novelty value and partly because, with this election's unique voting system, it stands a reasonable chance of winning one of the ten places at the talks table.

The 70 women standing for the coalition typify a large number who have shaken off the traditionally deferential stance of women in this conservative society. Many play important roles in the vibrant community and voluntary sector to which women have tended to gravitate in preference to mainstream politics.

This pattern was described yesterday by one candidate, Fidelma O'Gorman: "Through my job as a health visitor I work a lot on development with community groups. Over the years I've seen women in action co-operating with each other in a cross-community way on social, economic issues, local



Women's Coalition candidates at a picnic in Bangor, County Down. Photograph: Paul Faith

issues. It's not high-profile stuff, so a lot of people aren't aware of all this really good work."

Women in the coalition say it encompasses Protestant and Catholic, unionist and nationalist, republican and loyalist. They are pressing for a new ceasefire, and they emphasise that talks should be all-inclusive.

According to Avila Kilmurray: "People ask us what new things we can bring. Our answer is that we're not going to bring anything new in terms of constitutional politics, because all those views can and should be represented at the table.

"We're looking to try and facilitate solutions or actions rather than a point of view. We want the size and shape of the table, we're asking whether there are other ways of actually helping the process forward."

Pearl Sagar, a community worker from Protestant east Belfast, reflects the fact that many Catholic women have become more politicised more quickly than many Protestants. She says a lot of women she knows do not vote: "I would have been one of those, I wouldn't have dreamt of voting.

"Women in general are often unsure of themselves, they tend to take on the politics of their husband or their father, because they're not sure or confident, but there's no reason why they shouldn't be."

Ms Sagar, who was wearing a ribbon in Suffragette colours, added: "We have to learn to negotiate with one another. You just can't get up and act childish and leave the room if somebody says something you don't like. This is the time to do it, because if it doesn't work this time we don't know what's going to happen."

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A British aid worker has been murdered in Kenya by an armed gang which hijacked his car and shot him, it emerged yesterday.

The body of Chris Morris, 41, was found by police yesterday dumped just over a mile from Kiganjo, about 150 miles north-east of the capital Nairobi. The married agricultural worker, who had worked for the British aid organisation Farm Africa for four years, had been shot once in the head. Sources said that he had been kidnapped by a gang led by Gerald Wambugi Munyeria, listed as one of Kenya's most wanted men. The gang had hijacked two other drivers as they made their way from Nairobi to Kiganjo. Mr Morris's car was found on Saturday abandoned in the Kampi Simba forest, a popular tourist site in central Kenya. Police said yesterday that they had arrested two of the four gang members and were searching for the other two. A spokesman for the Foreign Office said that Mr Morris's family had asked for no details to be released and would not comment further.

Jojo Moyes

A missing French student who only speaks broken English may be too frightened to come forward, police said yesterday. Fanny Falor, 17, disappeared after leaving a nightclub in Cardiff early on Saturday. The alarm was raised when she failed to return to the Camille Hotel in Easton, Cardiff, where she works as a waitress. Police were trying to trace five young men who had been seen in their car at around 2.30am on Saturday, although she was seen several times later in the city centre.

Known as Nina, she arrived in South Wales from her home in Seydlitz, west France, on 5 April to study English. Yesterday Detective Chief Inspector Fred Williams, who is heading the inquiry, said: "Nina may feel scared that she is in trouble for staying away from her work. We are trying not to contact us and reassure us that she is safe."

A pair of ospreys hatched two eggs at their nest at Loch Garten in northern Scotland over the weekend. The pair, who last year had three young, have a third due to hatch in mid-June, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said.

Ospreys have been nesting at Loch Garten for several years, flying in every year from West Africa in the summer to hatch their young. Volunteers and wardens have been protecting the nest in an old tree in a forest reserve around the clock for five weeks. A video camera relayed pictures of the brood to a nearby centre which attracts thousands of visitors every year to watch the young birds develop before they leave the nest in August. Scotland is thought to have about 100 breeding pairs of ospreys.

Police hunting an arsonist were last night continuing their search after a 14-year-old girl died in a house fire in Essex over the weekend. Gulnar Shah died early on Sunday, 24 hours after an arsonist set fire to her home in the middle of the night. She was rescued from the burning house in Ilford, but died in a special hospital unit in Peterborough. Her parents and 10-year-old sister were treated for smoke inhalation.

Scotland Yard said there were signs that an accelerant such as petrol or kerosene was poured through the letterbox. It took police to believe the fire was a deliberate act, a spokesman said.

Paul Field

A novel claimed to be by Charlotte Brontë is likely to be published in the United States in the autumn, it emerged yesterday. The world English-language rights to the novel *Shirley* have been bought by the publishers Random House for an undisclosed sum.

It was originally thought, "said Ian King, an Edinburgh book agent who spent a year studying the novel. "It is definitely Charlotte Brontë—the evidence is convincing. I spent a year studying it, and it's pretty rock-solid." Giles Gordon, literary agent Mr King, said the book had already been published once in the US in 1990 under the title *Miss Miller* and in the name of Mary Taylor. It was written around 1845, about 10 years before Charlotte Brontë's death. Many literary experts are reserving judgement until they see the book, discovered when Mr King came across an 1890 copy of *Miss Miller* by Mary Taylor. He has written a 70-page introduction to the three-part novel, which will be published with an appendix containing a draft novella of *Shirley*, Brontë's second novel.

Jojo Moyes

Police investigating a road-rage incident were interviewing two men last night after a man was held up at gunpoint at the Milton interchange near Cambridge. The gun, later found to be a toy, was held to the head of the man on Sunday night, a week after the road-rage killing of Stephen Cameron at Swanley, Kent.

The man threatened had got out of a car being driven by his wife after they had been forced to stop when another car was driven towards them the wrong way along a slip-road. "The woman sounded the horn as a warning and stopped the car," a Cambridgeshire police spokesman said. "Her husband got out to speak with the driver of the Sierra, who opened his door and produced something that looked like a handgun. He put it to the head of the man, and said something to him."

The couple drove home and then telephoned police. Later a car was stopped by Essex police on the M11, when a toy gun was found. Police said four people were taken into custody. Two women were later released, and two men, 24 and 17, were detained for questioning.

Peter Victor

Prison officers started a work to rule yesterday, prompting fears that the jail system will be thrown into chaos. Some 30,000 members of the Prison Officers' Association are taking action over the loss of union rights and the threat of compulsory redundancies.

They are refusing to clock in before official starting times—causing knock-on delays with mass arrivals at times—and declining to work additional voluntary hours. POA leaders say they are ready to step up the action if they do not get guarantees that there will be no sackings to meet a 15.3 per cent cut in budget over three years. Prison governors have been attempting to reduce staff numbers through voluntary redundancies but the union believes that there is a growing threat of compulsory job cuts.

Prison staff are banned from taking industrial action under the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, but the POA leadership argues that its work to rule will not break the law. They are, however, ready to step up their action and take on the government in the High Court to defend the interests of an increasingly angry membership. They argue that it is dangerous to reduce staff numbers at a time when the prison population is rising. POA officials are not expecting the action to hit fully until later in the week. The Prison Service is keeping a watching brief to check on the effect of the action and to ensure that officers work their contracted hours.

Peter Victor

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Infant formula scare: Attack on government insistence that there is 'no cause for alarm' over fertility-threatening chemical

Delay over baby milk findings a 'shambles'

GLENDIA COOPER

The Department of Health insisted yesterday that it was safe to use formula milk as pressure grew on the Government to name the brands affected by so-called "gender-bender" chemicals.

Doctors, politicians and consumer groups have now called on the Ministry of Agriculture to publish the results of tests which have shown that nine leading brands contained levels of phthalates which have been linked to impaired fertility.

When similar levels of the chemicals, used in plastic softening, were administered to baby rats in tests by the Medical Research Council their testicles were damaged and sperm counts were reduced.

But the Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Jeremy Metters said yesterday saying there was no need to be concerned.

"The Department of Health has seen the papers and there is no cause for alarm. Mothers should continue to use the infant formula that they have been feeding their babies."

So far tests have been carried out on nine leading brands, which all contained phthalates. The environmental pressure group Greenpeace yesterday called for all baby milk brands to be tested. Tim Boswell, the junior agriculture minister, agreed this was a possibility.

"Obviously we need to go on and do a more thorough study."

But Labour's consumer spokesman Nigel Griffiths said the Government's response had been a "shambles".

"How can it be that a Government department knew two months ago that a plastic softening chemical had got into manufactured baby milk at

higher than permitted levels yet the source has not been tracked down and the minister refuses to give the names of the manufacturers," he said. "Instead he's giving the manufacturers another month or two to discover how this material got into the food chain. What a shambles."

Helena Charlton, secretary of the Infant and Dietetic Food Association, said she believed that all the major manufacturers and brands had been tested. The companies had met twice with Maff and the plastics industry in an attempt to identify the source of the phthalates.

"We agreed it was going to be very difficult to locate the source," she said. "We've pretty much eliminated packaging as they do not use those chemicals anymore. We looked at the sacks that the raw materials came in, we also considered whether it was possible they were coming in from the tubing that carries the milk."

"We even looked at the white overalls and wellingtons which are worn in factories in case they could have come into contact with the food source... We looked at whether it was in the rain which fell on the grass which the cows ate. It's going to be a long hard slog and I think we'll find it comes into many aspects of the food chain."

The immediate problem that mothers face is that while they do not want to feed their babies milk high in phthalates, the alternatives carry their own separate risks.

The Department of Health's official advice is that unmodified cow's milk should not be given to any child under one because of the risk of allergies.



A matter of bottle: Labour has attacked the Government's handling of the contamination of baby milk

Photograph: Edward Sykes

Why processed is not the best

JOJO MOYES

Until relatively recently, the words "baby food" conjured up nothing more exciting than a bit of stewed apple and a rusk.

Now, however, as well as a wide selection of formula milks, the discerning baby can choose from a massive selection with labels such as "Fisherman's Surprise" or even "Carrots and coriander risotto".

For working mothers, the relentless growth of processed baby foods has been welcome. It has freed up valuable time, and means that even the fussiest baby can be catered for.

Despite a flurry of contamination scares in recent years, fierce competition and advertising have led to a boom in the British industry, which is now

worth more than £400m, compared to £191m in 1989.

Eighty per cent of Britain's 1 million babies aged between four and 20 months are eating and drinking their way through sales worth more than £120m a year.

And why not, when the manufacturers' labels suggest that their baby milks and foods are additive-free, sugar-free and perhaps even healthier than anything a mother could make herself?

But some nutritional bodies are among those questioning whether processed is, in fact, best.

Only two of 11 formula milks for babies tested by scientists at South Bank University in Feb-

ruary provided enough selenium to meet the Health Department's recommendation of 10mg a day.

The nutrient's effects include protection against heart disease and cancer.

And the Food Commission's recent survey into 60 leading brand baby foods showed that they are often packed with starches and thickeners, massive levels of sugar and tiny amounts of meat.

Nutritional values can be so low that a seven-month-old baby drinking 500ml of full-cream milk a day would still need to eat as many as six jars a day to get enough calories.

One rusk contained twice the percentage of sugar of a ring doughnut, while baby puddings can often contain the equivalent

of 16-17 sugar lumps in a typical jar.

Some dishes contained the starch maltodextrin - more commonly used as a gum on postage stamps, while several baby drinks contained more sugar than Coca-Cola.

Fromage frais has been another baby-food boom market since it crossed the Channel in 1985.

Some manufacturers say that packs state clearly that their fromage frais is not suitable for babies under six months.

But many mothers choose it when babies try solids at three to four months because it is easy to serve, and babies like its creamy taste.

While a good source of protein and calcium, a survey found that pots of fromage frais may

contain colourings, starch thickeners and preservatives such as E202, which, while approved for use, is still considered suspect by some experts after causing liver damage in test animals.

The popular little pots were also found to contain massive levels of sugar: one had the equivalent of four sugar lumps as well as unnecessary additives.

But while there are controls regarding artificial additives, salts and sugars in baby foods, there are fewer restrictions on products targeted at children.

Many confectioners are increasing levels of E numbers, despite concerns about their links to hyperactivity and other disorders. One brand of sweets, for example, contains six colourings, three of which are banned in several countries.

A long history of safety scares

DIET OF TROUBLE
GLENDIA COOPER

The scare over phthalates in infant formula milk is just the latest in a series of fears over the safety of children's food.

Last June the Ministry of Agriculture announced that it would investigate research from New Zealand which suggested that soya milk extract could lead to raised levels of compounds known as phytoestrogens, which have been linked to declining sperm counts and raised infertility.

Research suggests that the amounts of powdered milks recommended by manufacturers could be the equivalent, weight for weight, of feeding an infant more than three contraceptive pills each day.

Earlier in 1995 mothers were urged to breast-feed their babies after a study showed formula milk could affect brain cells. It was claimed that powdered milk might not have enough fatty acids, which play a vital role in neurological development.

Fears of tampering started in April 1989, when it was feared that ground glass had been put in babyfood.

A £100,000 reward was offered at one stage and a former Scotland Yard detective was arrested in connection with a £1m extortion racket from Heinz. Rodney Whitehead was eventually sentenced to 17 years and Heinz estimated they had had to withdraw babyfood worth £30m from shelves.

In June 1993, 80,000 jars of Cow and Gate babyfood were cleared from shops because it was feared they may be contaminated with disinfectant. It was thought to be traced to a Dutch slaughterhouse.

Heinz also had to recall 150,000 cans of babyfood after six mothers reported finding pieces of metal in their children's meals.

And in 1992 medical experts called for babyfood containers with anti-tampering devices to be made safer after a baby almost choked when he inhaled part of one.

Convenience is the best recipe Don't give them this gooey mush

The early stage of parenthood is drudgery. It certainly has its incandescent joys, but these are necessary rewards for the less than saintly parent.

Yet every so often there is new pressure for mothers to martyr themselves to their babies by doing what is most "natural". The periodic flaps about formula milk are a good example. I would not dream of challenging the medical evidence that breast milk is best. But the lectures we will hear about it again following the phthalates scare will overlook the disadvantages.

The first of these is that only women can breastfeed. In many partnerships, although not my own, daddy gets the unbroken nights while mummy wakes on demand. Some new mothers find breast feeding painful or unpleasant. The assumption that it is a universally enjoyable bonding process is one of the soft-focus myths of motherhood.

Mothers who want in con-



DIANE COYLE

tinued in paid work generally start after two or three months. Rare is the job that can be fitted around feeds. Most of us have to leave bottles and jars with the childminder and could do without any extra guilt over abandoning home and infants for our job. Jars of baby mush are useful convenience foods, too, just like Marmite and Spickee chicken tikka masala. Great for the busy or the lazy.

Certainly, let us have formula milk and baby food free from chemicals. The discovery of a taint in some brands should be no excuse for bullying overburdened parents to conform to an oppressive ideal.

Weaning a baby is a messy and time consuming business, so the neat little jars of baby food labelled anything from "spring vegetable puree" to "apricot custard" seem an easy and obvious option for the busy mother. I soon discovered, however, that despite the tempting pictures and words on the labels the contents usually smell and taste disgusting. The baby spits out the gooey mess, after a few mouthfuls, the half-full jar is left to rot in the fridge, and the expense quickly mounts up.

Although the jars and tins are marketed as convenience food, I think it is just as easy to mash a banana, or to peel and cook a few vegetables and whisk them up oneself. Once cooked the puree can be spooned into ice cube trays and frozen, and then used whenever and in as small quantities as you want. Sweet potato mashed with carrot looks, smells and tastes much nicer than cauliflower cheese out of a jar, and my baby thinks so too.



SARAH JEWELL

Despite the inventiveness of the food manufacturers, it is also far easier to introduce a baby to the wide range of flavours and foods that an adult eats, by setting aside a few mouthfuls of whatever one is cooking, than to rush out to the chemist to buy another jar of shepherd's pie or rhubarb custard.

Although we mothers are constantly assured that processed baby foods are perfectly safe, just as we are told by the manufacturers that formula baby-milk is as good as breast milk, there is only one way to be sure of what your baby is really eating and that is to buy and cook the food yourself.

SAS rebuilds its wall of silence

The recent avalanche of books and TV programmes about the SAS has probably spent itself with the news that the man who started it will not seek re-election as President of the SAS Regimental Association.

Within the close-knit world of former SAS men, it may signify ostracism. A Carlton TV series, *SAS - The Soldiers' Story* begins this week, with new MoD guidelines in place and increasing bitterness among serving and recently retired SAS men against the handful of retired soldiers who made capital of their earlier experiences. It is likely to be the last.

General Sir Peter de la Billiere, who served with the SAS and was Britain's senior military figure in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, said he would not seek re-election as the SAS Association's chairman. He is widely seen as the instigator of the rash of SAS books and films.

Senior defence sources told the *Independent* last week that they did not believe Sir Peter

The elite army unit has closed ranks again, writes Christopher Bellamy

knew the effect that publication of the details of SAS operations during the Gulf, in his book, *Storm Command*, would have. But having described the exploits of patrol Bravo Two Zero, deployed in the western Iraqi desert to destroy Scud missiles, it was perhaps inevitable that surviving members of that patrol - one using the pseudonym Andy McNab, the other Chris Ryan - would publish their own accounts, with spectacular publishing success.

Whereas McNab and Ryan undoubtedly witnessed the events they described, others may also have jumped on the bandwagon. And whereas the role of the SAS in the Gulf war was relatively straightforward, the SAS may also have been involved in other operations - against drug barons in South America and possibly in the former Soviet Union and Afghanistan - which the

Government would not want advertised.

Although many of the procedures described in the books and TV series may differ from those currently in use by SAS men in Bosnia - whose language skills and expertise in working with local factions are their prime value - senior officers said they were still concerned.

There are fears within the Hereford-based Regiment itself and at the highest defence planning levels, that the mystique of the SAS has been damaged. Its mystique is as important a part of its fighting power as its professional competence; the worst thing you can do is to suggest the SAS are very ordinary people, though tough, resilient and competent soldiers, who specialise in certain skills.

However, the Carlton TV series, which re-examines well-trodden ground about the war against the IRA, the Falklands and the Gulf, is seen as less damaging than the dramatisation of Chris Ryan's book, *The One that Got Away*. The latter portrayed the SAS as badly prepared and incompetent.

The spate of "revelations" led to the MoD breaking its traditional "no comment" rule on special forces in the latest Defence White Paper, published on 1 May. For the first time it featured a few paragraphs on the role of special forces.

"The interests of national security will always come first," it says. "And where necessary the Department [MoD] will pursue all appropriate legal options to prevent the publication of information about the Special Forces which it considers to be potentially damaging."

In the light of such statements, in future it is likely that the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, which apply even after someone has left Government Service, will be more strictly enforced.

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news

Homosexual priests: Opponents warn that the Archbishop's failure to condemn robs Anglican Communion of meaning

Carey calls for tolerance as US ordains gays

ANDREW BROWN
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has appealed again for tolerance and the acceptance of division in the Anglican world. He was speaking during a visit to the United States, at a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the diocese of Los Angeles where the bishop has admitted to ordaining active homosexual priests.

Dr Carey's opposition to such ordinations is well-known. But his refusal to condemn them was yesterday attacked by a leading English opponent of gay priests, who warned that such equivocation would rob the structures of the Anglican Communion of all meaning.

"I think he's got to make it plain for the avoidance of doubt that the ordination of practising homosexuals is totally unacceptable within the Anglican Communion and a failure to do that will have serious consequences," said the Rev David Holloway, Rector of Jesmond, Newcastle.

Dr Holloway was one of the architects of the General Synod

motion of 1987 condemning homosexual acts, which has since been partially replaced by more gay-friendly statements from the bishops and archbishops of the Anglican Communion.

The Episcopal Church of America, though it acknowledges Dr Carey's primacy and welcomes his visit, takes little notice of any Archbishop of Canterbury. At the same time as the Church of England's General Synod has been trying to hold the line against openly gay priests in Britain, the US has seen a period of advances for the pro-gay lobby. Bishop Walter Righter, who last year became the first American bishop to be tried for heresy since 1923, was acquitted just before Dr Carey arrived in the US from Bermuda, where he had been consecrating a bishop.

Bishop Righter's "crime" had been to ordain a gay priest, knowing that he was involved in a relationship. The court did not pronounce on whether this was right or wrong, but it concluded that there was no core doctrine of the episcopal church to prohibit his action: it is up to individual bishops' discretion to

decide whether being involved in a homosexual relationship disbars a candidate for ordination.

The bishop's return to New Jersey was celebrated by a service "affirming inclusive love" in front of Barry Stopfel, the priest he ordained, and Rev Will Leckie. The euphoric atmosphere has been undimmed by the fact that the Dean of the Anglican cathedral in New Jersey has resigned to fight a sexual harassment case brought against him by a man.

In a similar development, Dean Frederick Northrup, of Seattle's Anglican Cathedral, blessed a homosexual couple on the day of Dr Carey's arrival in the US. "Let their vows be without shame," he said at the ceremony. "A sign of the new world of justice and peace."

"Leadership does demand that at certain points certain things have to be ruled out," said Dr Holloway when he heard of this. However, Dr Carey has put forward the view that the contribution of the Anglican Communion to world Christianity lies in its graceful handling of profound disagreements.



Solemn parade: Priests en route to Mass process to Little Walsingham priory, Norfolk, yesterday during the annual pilgrimage commemorating the sighting of a vision of the Virgin Mary at the spot in 1061. Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid

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Tory MPs say donors should be disclosed

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, is coming under growing pressure to disclose the sources of large donations to Tory funds as his inquiries continue into money received from Serbian businessman Zoran Tancic.

Several Tory MPs yesterday said they agreed with the call from Lord Laing, a former Tory treasurer, for the party to make public the identities of all donors giving more than £25,000.

Former Cabinet minister John Biffen said that, above a minimum, "all contributions should be made public - even more so in respect of contributions from foreigners".

David Wiltshire, the Tory MP for Spelthorne who, like Mr Biffen, rebelled against the Prime

Minister to vote in favour of the disclosure of MPs' outside earnings last November, said: "If there is public anxiety, then the way to put it to rest is to disclose. If it is something that is going to be used against us, then all the Nolan arguments apply."

Most Tory MPs, however, held back from calling on Dr Mawhinney to return "tainted" donations from Mr Tancic and the fugitive tycoon Asil Nadir. Stephen Day, Tory MP for Cheadle, told the *Independent* that the party should "think very carefully" about the public reaction to the Tancic and Nadir donations. "If I was party chairman I would put it as top priority to respond to public opinion on this," he said.

Meanwhile, the Tory Central Office inquiry has turned out to be more complex than party officials originally thought.

Yesterday, the *Independent* revealed that Mr Tancic is in business with a Russian accused of "channelling state money" into his own pockets. And there have also been reports of a donation in 1992 from a different source connected to Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, who is wanted for war crimes. This donation was said to have been returned after the Prime Minister was warned about it by MI6.

Dr Mawhinney is still under pressure to return most of the £440,000 donated by Asil Nadir, boss of the collapsed Polly Peck empire. Tory Central Office received a report three years ago from Touche Ross, the City accountants, confirming its view that £365,000 of the donation had been stolen from the company.

Central Office again refused to comment yesterday.

Area treasurers' report for 1995-96

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONSTITUENCIES					
POSITION	AREA	TARGET	PAID	% OF TARGET	LOANS
1	South Western	335,486	236,909	70.6	640,939
2	Wessex	285,474	191,310	67.0	535,038
3	Wales	63,024	41,714	66.2	98,300
4	Scotland	92,671	53,360	57.6	213,989
5	Northern	49,108	18,517	37.7	79,500
6	Western	243,990	74,547	30.6	354,881
7	Yorkshire	160,339	48,885	30.5	96,000
8	Greater London	334,054	97,844	29.3	223,491
9	West Midlands	293,830	83,656	28.5	222,930
10	North West	258,799	69,999	27.0	435,709
11	East Midlands	244,515	63,546	26.0	165,404
12	Eastern	370,853	96,125	25.9	306,828
Total		2,746,796	1,107,652	40.3	3,405,019

Loans allow backers to provide 'secret' funding

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

Tory grassroots supporters are turning their backs on the party by refusing to give straight cash payments and insisting that any money they do give is in the form of loans.

Confidential internal party figures leaked to the *Independent* reveal an increasing reluctance among constituency associations to dip into their pockets. The figures, which cover the party region by region, raise further questions as to where Central Office is getting its funding from.

In the last few weeks, party sources have been bullishly declaring their cash crisis is over, and it may be that corporate donors who no longer wish to be publicly identified as benefactors are also offering the party loans. Unlike a cash payment, which should be declared as a political donation in company accounts, a loan can be hidden. A company is under no obligation to declare it and if it is not repaid, the money can be written off as a bad debt.

The constituencies certain-

ly appear to favour this method of funding. In the financial year to the end of March (see table), they only met 40.3 per cent of the target set by Central Office - £1.107m in donations against a target of £2.746m.

This total was £33,000 down on the 1994-95 tally of £1.140m. Not only is the overall figure down but performance is also waning: the 1994-95 tally was 42.5 per cent of target, against 40.3 per cent this time.

While cash donations are down, however, constituencies are happy to make loans, with areas where Tory support is currently weakest among the biggest lenders. North West, for instance, made donations of £69,999 but loaned £435,709.

The figures will fuel suspicions that the Tories are relying on private benefactors who they refuse to name and new ways of boosting their finances. Long-time corporate donors have scaled back their funding in the last few years, with many companies, such as Glaxo and Whitbread ceasing to give altogether. Party treasurers maintain, however, that corporate support has remained fairly

steady, at around £2m a year. This, plus the latest set of constituency totals, adds to the mystery of where the money is coming from. Party insiders maintain they have received at least £10m in donations in the past 12 months. The party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, announced in March that the overdraft, which had been as high as £15m was down to £2.5m.

Increasingly, they are going down the loan route for their money. Constituencies are preferring to give loans at low rates of interest. They are provided on such long repayment terms as to be non-repayable, but most associations insert a clause saying they can be repaid at short notice if required.

For constituencies, loans are proving more popular than cash because it enables them to keep a hold over their money and to feel it has not been swallowed for ever. Private individuals and companies are also being encouraged to give loans. Central Office sources have confirmed that corporate donors are being canvassed to make loans if they feel worried about being publicly revealed as Tory backers.

سكان العراق

Treasures revive the legend of El Dorado

DAVID KEYS
Archaeology Correspondent

One of the world's greatest collections of ancient South American gold has gone on display for the first time. Most of the 209 items — all but one of which are owned by the British Museum — have never previously been seen by the public.

The exhibition at the Museum of Mankind in central London (which is the British Museum's ethnography department) features spectacular golden masks, helmets, breast plates, statues and even a golden crown from 23 South and Central American cultures.

The British Museum built up its ancient South American gold collection between the 1820s and the 1940s, but until now has never put it on show. Many pieces, dating from the 1st to 15th century, are of great international importance and outside the Americas it is among the world's three best collections of pre-Columbian gold-work.

Gold — thought by ancient South Americans to embody the energising powers of the sun — was used in considerable quantities by native cultures. This is shown in the mind of the Spanish conquistadores the belief that the New World was awash with gold: an idea which led to the popularity of the El Dorado legend.

Although countless gold-hunting expeditions tried in vain to locate the riches of El Dorado, the exhibition does feature 54 exquisite gold objects from Colombia's Muisca culture of more than 1,000 years ago which probably produced the historical basis for the legend — a royal coronation ritual in which a native king covered himself with gold dust and threw golden treasures into a deep volcanic lake.

El Dorado means "The Gilded One" (referring to the king) and the exhibition, to last at least a year, features a golden votive figurine — a warrior with spear and shield — dredged from the lake by treasure-hunters in the last century. Among the most beautiful ancient Colombian items on display are an array of ceremonial golden helmets and flasks, some of which feature naked humans, which may have been used in fertility rituals.

The flasks were used to aid ritual consumption of cocaine. Minute quantities of the drug were ingested by chewing coca leaves. The ability to absorb the stimulant was then enhanced by chewing alkaline powder made of crushed shells which was stored in the golden flasks.

There are also several masks with their "eyes" closed, perhaps signifying the mind's concentration on contact with the spirit rather than the human world. From Peru — probably from the great Temple of the Sun, the sacred centre of the Inca empire — comes a small but exquisite pair of gold earrings.

From ancient Panama there is a fascinating little three-dimensional plaque featuring eight musicians playing conch-shell trumpets and flutes. From pre-Columbian Costa Rica are a bevy of golden animals — frogs, birds and alligators — and winged humans, possibly priests engaging in spirit flight, a religious practice for which the South and Central American Indian priests were famed.

But perhaps most fascinating of all is a 700-year-old crown from Ecuador. A wide band of solid gold bedecked with a golden feather, it was originally worn by a ruler of a tribal federation in what is now Southern Ecuador. The crown, given by the Ecuadorian president to Queen Victoria in 1854, remains the property of the British Crown.

At the British Museum, scientific analysis has just been carried out on 30 of the exhibits and more tests are planned. Using scanning electron microscopy, X-ray imaging and metal and mineral analysis, the museum's scientists will at last be able to tease out of these ancient art treasures the technical details of exactly how they were made.

The exhibition is at the Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, London W1 (admission free).



Gilded image: From the exhibition, a Colombian cast gold mask of figure with ear-rings and nose ornament

DAILY POEM

The Dreaming Bean

By Katherine Pierpoint

This is the germinal spot of gathering green.
A close-curted, blissful fist
Of dreaming bean, milk-wet opal in the pod.

Held in the damp, white hollow of down,
The touch of light sifts through slim walls of sap
Circling, drifting cool and fine, to a whisper.

A juicebubble; single, wetblown membrane,
Sphere of spun water, held high to the sun
In convergent slipstreams of light and air.

Not yet a thing of earth, the bean lies curled and
Swelling into itself, welling like a favourite thought.
Its stem is a pointing finger, to focus colour, meaning and delight.

The stem refines, and then instils a greater world;
A gathering up and soundless pouring into a quiet green pool.
A flow of growing vision into the beholding eye.

The pod moves — small wimple, turning on the breeze —
And steadies again. The dreaming bean
Makes the slightest of slipping squeaks against the skin
Like a wet finger on the boat's white hull.

A drop of breathing seasonand in the sappy shell,
Starting to dream of changing state,
Of firming the sap to smoothness,
Of forming two soft, mirrorlinked halves:
This bean, the young old milk-tooth of the earth.

Katherine Pierpoint was last week awarded the prestigious Somerset Maugham Award for her first collection, published by Faber in 1994, *Truffle Beds*. The award, created in Somerset Maugham's lifetime to permit young British writers under the age of 35 to spend time on foreign travel, has at different times passed to Martin Amis, VS. Naipaul, and John le Carré, amongst others. Pierpoint, unusually for a contemporary poet, has a Schopenhauerian sense of her art, twisting and turning her narratives into startling and compelling conclusions.



Chest infection: The monster that bugged John Hurt, with some of its animation tubes Photograph: Kelpsh Lathigra

Earthly price for 'Alien' beastie

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

First seen erupting from John Hurt's chest, the monster that formed the centrepiece of the film *Alien* goes on sale next month. Those with £20,000 to spend can discover the workings of the puppet that horrified Sigourney Weaver and Hurt in Ridley Scott's 1979 film.

It is being sold at Phillips Bayswater on 18 June by Roger Dicken, the special-effects expert who made the "beastie". "The alien was a very simple model, although it had to be very lifelike," Mr Dicken said. "He had a lot of workings inside a very small frame. So if anything had gone wrong we would have been in great trouble... It is the actual creature which came breathing, pulsating and screaming out of John Hurt's chest."

That special effect was no easy thing to achieve. "I was positioned under the table on which John Hurt appeared to be lying, although in fact his body

went through the table to create the effect," Mr Dicken said. "I operated the beast with my right hand, pushing it up through a false chest-piece fitting to John Hurt and filled with animal intestines and blood pipes from an abattoir."

"Simultaneously, I pumped the creature's chest with an air tube in my left hand and various assistants squeezed other air tubes that I'd fitted running through the middle to activate his tiny arms, gills and saliva."

"It was not remotely scary in real life. Although the beastie obviously created a bit of film history, I do feel he was the least artistic of the many things I've created."

Mr Dicken, a veteran of the *Dr Who* special-effects department, now makes fantasy figures for collectors. "I've got no time for the horror movies of today," he said. "There's far too much gratuitous violence and hype and there's an awful waste of money... But special effects have moved on. They're obviously far superior — just not the films."

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news

Headteachers' conference: Delegates seek sanctions against violent parents

Schools' contracts 'need legal backing'

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Parents should be forced to sign legally binding contracts preventing them from abusing or attacking teachers at their children's schools, headteachers say.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) conference, which starts today in Torquay, Devon, will hear calls for new sanctions to deal with violent mothers and fathers who prevent schools from disciplining their children.

With classroom disruption and exclusion high on the political agenda, ministers are bound to come under new pressure to give schools new powers to deal with them.

Tomorrow, delegates will argue that parents, as well as pupils, are part of the problem. A small but growing number are disrupting the work of schools and are placing both heads and staff in a vulnerable position, they will say.

Some waste teachers' time by refusing to allow their children to be kept in detention, while a few threaten violence. Others make false allegations against staff which often include suggestions that their children have been victimised.

Jenny Simpson, president of the New Forest association of the NAHT, will tell the conference that the law should be strengthened so that such parents can be called swiftly to account.

"Abuse and aggression by a few parents has a detrimental effect on the whole school community and it wastes valuable time. Its victims can often become traumatised," she told the Independent.

Binding contracts which they would have to sign before their children started school could set out both their rights and their responsibilities, Ms Simpson will argue.

The contracts, which already exist in many schools but which have no legal status, often ask parents to bring children to school regularly and on time, to support the school's discipline code and to accept its ethos. In return, the school agrees to provide a caring environment, challenging lessons and regular information on the child's progress.

Rowie Shaw, the association's director of professional services, said that schools were being asked to uphold society's moral values without any legal backing. She was particularly critical of appeals panels no exclusions, which have sparked strike threats twice in the last month by returning disruptive pupils to schools.

"When the school gives a detention the parent can refuse. When the school excludes a pupil - always a last resort - the governors uphold it then three people dragged in off the street overturn it. There are a whole raft of issues about parental responsibility," she said.

Among the other issues to be raised at the conference will be the headteachers' proposed boycott of league tables for 11-year-olds. The association is asking school governors to withhold their test results so that ministers cannot publish them next spring.

Conference delegates will defend the decision, which has led to criticism that they are prepared to ask governors to break the law but not to do so themselves.



Dry Wight: Unless water is available at crucial times, crops might be blighted or not grow at all.

Photograph: Andrew Haddon

Farmers unite to beat the drought

ROS WYNNE-JONES

With this summer's drought threatening Britain's fruit and vegetable crops, farmers on the Isle of Wight are congratulating themselves on their innovative irrigation measures that may save the island's produce.

After last year's problems with drought, several farmers formed a collective with the aim of sharing water and digging winter storage reservoirs to collect water during the wetter months of the year. It took a court case against the National Rivers Authority and a great deal of work digging reservoirs, but this summer the farmers are facing the weather with a little more confidence.

Penny Smyth, environmental policy adviser to the National Farmers Union confirmed the threat of drought is now "serious".

"It's certainly worse than last year," she said. "At least last year there had been fairly heavy rainfall throughout the winter so there was more water in the ground." The areas most likely to be affected were East Anglia, the South, Yorkshire and Severn-Trent.

Supermarkets have also been expressing concern about the impact of the water shortage on the food industry. "If we don't get a substantial amount of rain soon, then we must prepare for a very low crop yield this year," said Colin Kitchen, a technologist for Tesco. Some fields were so dry that crops had yet to germinate and in Lincolnshire low-lying land had not recovered from last year's drought.

A spokeswoman for Sainsbury said: "If the dry spell continues we are looking at a very

difficult summer with regard to quality vegetable availability."

The Environment Agency said the outlook for agricultural water supplies was "uncertain", with the possibility of restrictions in many areas. The agency is warning farmers to look ahead.

The Isle of Wight collective, however, is already benefiting from foresight. "It seemed obvious to us that the total resource of an area should be available to the total population," said Colin Boswell, of Mersley Farm, Newchurch. "The regulations of the National Rivers Authority were preventing us from doing that. If I had too much water and my neighbour didn't have enough, then under the law I couldn't give any to him because I could only use the amount the NRA licence allows." The matter was

eventually settled in court, with the NRA agreeing to allow the farmers to use their water more efficiently.

Like other farms around the country, particularly in East Anglia, the Isle of Wight collective also began building collective reservoirs across the island to trap winter rainfall. Mr Boswell, who farms 1,000 acres of sweetcorn and 30 acres of garlic for a supermarket chain, said: "The water is now available to us this summer and we can use it without any restrictions being applicable. Before, the water was just going out to the sea."

A neighbouring potato farmer, Maurice Flux, said farmers on the island had a history of solidarity. "There's a group of us who all supply the same supermarket chain. Every year we find out what the su-

permarket wants and then each farm grows the crops which are best suited to the land of that farm. I grow potatoes, but also grow some sweetcorn for Mr Boswell."

Water dramatically affects the quality of a crop, he says, and whether water is available at crucial times will affect everything from whether vegetables have blemishes to whether they grow at all.

Ms Smyth says the principles applied by the Isle of Wight collective could be used elsewhere in the country. "Farmers are having to become more self-reliant," she says. "Because of the changing climate it is now necessary to find methods that don't leave so much of farming to chance. Whether there is enough rainfall is an act of God - and that puts farmers in a very unpredictable position."

Ford accused of racial bias over jobs

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

The Ford Motor Company, renowned for its high-minded equal opportunities policies, is facing a legal challenge over alleged racism.

Black and Asian production workers at Dagenham claim they were refused transfers to jobs as £30,000-a-year lorry drivers because the selection system was biased against them.

One already held a Heavy Goods Vehicle licence and two others qualified shortly after they were refused a job.

The Transport and General Workers' Union is backing the "Dagenham Seven" in industrial tribunal cases against Ford. The company is highly sensitive about the ethnic make-up of the 300-strong truck-fleet workforce, based at the Essex plant, and will claim in the tribunals next month that there was no discrimination in the case of the seven litigants.

Union lawyers will argue that the company has presided over institutionalised racism. It is alleged that the selection process has often meant that the highly sought-after jobs are passed from father to son. The drivers earn twice as much as their colleagues on the production lines.

The union's pursuit of the cases has caused bitter internal division at the T&G because shop stewards in the truck fleet argue that selection is based on merit.

Between 40 and 45 per cent of the manual workforce at Dagenham is of ethnic minority origin, but only around 2 per cent of the truck fleet.

In 1990, when the seven were refused lorry drivers' jobs, only three out of 29 successful applicants were from ethnic minorities. Some 143 white workers applied and 53 non-white. It is understood that all 16 drivers recruited last summer were white.

The union will also allege that some of truck-fleet supervisors responsible for selection made racist comments at an equal opportunities course that the company had arranged.

Union officials believe the company has not reviewed the recruitment method because the truck fleet is probably the most powerful section of workers at Ford. The lorries take parts to plants all over western Europe. Because component stocks are always kept to a minimum, a strike in the truck fleet would bring Ford's European operation to a standstill within days.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the T&G, said the union would prefer to settle the issue through negotiation. "Equality is an industrial relations issue which you cannot deal with through the courts. The company should meet the union to discuss proper equal opportunities practices and stop hiding behind paper policies." Yesterday, the company maintained its policy of refusing to discuss the issue.

Earlier this year Ford was at the centre of a row over an "ethnically cleansed" photograph. Black and Asian workers were invited to pose with white colleagues to show the racial mix at Dagenham, but when they saw the promotional literature the black and brown faces were replaced by white ones. The workers concerned each received £1,500 compensation for "hurt feelings". An advertising agency had decided to change the picture for use in Poland because the population there was overwhelmingly white. The amended photograph appeared in Britain by mistake.

Large classes up 7% in primaries

FRAN ABRAMS

Four out of ten primary school children are taught in classes of more than 30, according to figures that have been released to the Labour Party.

David Blunkett, the party's education spokesman, will highlight the rise in class sizes when he speaks in the NAHT conference on Thursday.

The figures for January 1995 show a 7 per cent increase in the proportion in classes with more than 30 pupils since the previous year, taking the total to 1.6 million. They also show that the number of primary pupils in classes of over 40 have risen by 27 per cent in a single year, from 14,000 to 18,000.

No class size figures are available yet for 1996, although the Department for Education and Employment admitted last week that the number of pupils per teacher was continuing to rise. In primary schools there are now 23.2 pupils for every teacher compared with 22.5 last year.

Mr Blunkett described the figures as a damning indictment of government complacency over the issue. Gillian Shepard, the Secretary of State for Education, has said that in general the quality of teaching is more important than class size.

"Mrs Shepard should listen to the advice of education experts and her own chief inspector, who admitted in November last year that small class sizes are of benefit in the early years," Mr Blunkett said.

A spokesman for Mrs Shepard said that the report from the chief inspector of schools had supported the view of the Secretary of State. The proportion of children in single-teacher classes of more than 30, without any kind of help, had dropped from 35 per cent in 1979 to 30 per cent today, he said.

Large classes were often the result of a school putting children together for music, drama or sport, he added.

Adverts 'inappropriate' after Dunblane deaths

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

The issue of advertisement scheduling after a tragedy will re-open today after a television watchdog upheld complaints about campaigns shown shortly after the Dunblane massacre.

The Independent Television Commission received complaints from 17 viewers after the murder of 16 Scottish schoolchildren six weeks ago, although it said commercial channels took pains to "act sensitively".

Nine complaints focused on a Persil Nani-Bio advertisement on GMTV in which a couple said their son had a toy gun on his bed. It followed a programme on child bereavement which had shown footage of flowers outside the Dunblane primary school where the tragedy happened.

The ITC upheld the complaints, despite GMTV's de-

fence that the original schedule - the bereavement programme had been extended - would have avoided the juxtaposition. It was "regrettable", the watchdog said.

It also upheld a complaint objecting to an advertisement for Woolworth's Ladybird clothes which featured young children looking sad as their clothes were put away to a soundtrack of the song "We'll Meet Again". It was shown on the day of the shootings and on two following days.

But the commission gave credit to Meridian and Channel Television for withdrawing the advertisement as soon as TSMs, the scheduling company, received objections.

The third advertisement which prompted complaints was for Lee Jeans. It showed a man firing a shotgun at his daughter's boyfriend. Four viewers felt it was inappropriate to show the advert on Channel 4 in the week of the

shootings, a view upheld by the commission.

The ITC also ruled that it would have been "preferable" for Channel 4 to suspend the trailer for the film *Get Shorty* which featured shooting scenes, at least in the week following the tragedy.

But it added: "The television companies and the sales houses acting on their behalf all have procedures for identifying programming and developing news stories that might require the rescheduling of particular advertisements."

"These procedures were put into effect after the news of the Dunblane killings became known and a number of advertisements with potentially sensitive content were temporarily removed from the schedules and others were rescheduled. "All this was carried out at very short notice. The ITC is satisfied that, in the main, the television companies acted responsibly and sensitively."

Police foil theft of Irish stone relic

ALAN MURDOCH
Dublin

Police in the west of Ireland have thwarted an attempt to steal and export a valuable early Christian carved stone head from a graveyard in Co. Clare.

One of a pair, the whereabouts of the second head is unknown but it is one of the latest antiquities stolen for sale to collectors in Britain, Germany and the United States according to police and museum curators.

The life-sized grey stone head-and-shoulders effigies of a bishop looking down on an abbot date from the 1420s. They disappeared separately from the remains of an early Christian church in Kilmacreehy in August 1992 and October 1993.

One has been found by a local farmer hidden on his land. Police believe they know the identity of the thief, and hope to recover the second head.

Other thefts in Co. Clare have included conical stones from toll gates at Stannlebridge and items from graveyards.

Garda John Paul of Lahinch, who has worked in the county for 25 years, said: "There are stones going all the time from sites all around the Burren. It's a pity because none of these things can be left out any more. For a while everything was left out and nothing would go. There were also a lot of antiquities on farms which people didn't realise were important."

Experts say London is the single biggest market for stolen or illegally exported Irish relics. "The British are notoriously bad at introducing either internal controls to protect heritage or co-operating internationally," one Irish expert complained.

Recently, controversy surrounded the export to Britain of two bronze cannons made by the Owen brothers, gun-founders to King Henry VIII and Edward VI. They were removed illegally from a wreck in Tramore Bay, Co. Waterford. Their legal ownership is now being contested between the Royal Armouries in London and Ireland's National Museum.

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Real goal is money in TV football sale

The future of British television is at stake in the £800m fight for rights to football action

MATHEW HORSMAN and PATRICK TOOHER

The biggest television contract in British sport is again up for grabs. At stake: a staggering amount of money. For the rights to broadcast matches of the Premiership, the country's top football attraction, the winners may have to stump up £800m over five years, including exclusive rights to live games, highlights and overseas sales.

This is about more than football. Brian Barwick, of BBC Sport, said: "Sport has an important role in bringing the nation together." He may well be right. As many as 9 million people tuned in to the European Cup final on ITV last week.

It is also about the future of television, and who controls it. For at some point during the next five years, the digital revolution will come to British television, allowing broadcasters to transmit far more programmes along the same frequencies. The result will be hundreds of new channels and technological innovation that will make the introduction of colour in the 1960s look like a minor design upgrade.

In that environment, football becomes what one Premiership official calls "a hot property" - one of the few kinds of programming viewers will actually pay subscription fees to see. The door will be open to pay-per-view broadcasts, allowing viewers to select the games they want to watch, even the camera angle they prefer.


We are a long way from the days of the duopoly, when the BBC and ITV divided up the spoils of football on telly, and the clubs earned paltry sums. The Premiership knows it; the broadcasters know it. Since 1992, when BSkyB signed an exclusive contract with the breakaway Premier League, it has emerged as the country's most profitable broadcaster, earning £250m this year alone.

The current contract, which still has a season to run, provides the clubs about £60m a year, or £305m over five years, including £4.5m a year from the BBC for Match of the Day highlight rights, and £14m annually from overseas.

The BBC and the ITV have gone head to head in the current contract negotiations, hoping to secure rights to the

The main negotiators and winners in the playing off for Premiership millions

The three leading rivals



What the teams are paid

Team	Pos	Club	TV Payments 1995/96 (£m)	Ground Capacity
Manchester United	1	Manchester United	2.59	55,300
Newcastle United	2	Newcastle United	2.48	36,649
Liverpool	3	Liverpool	2.48	41,000
Manchester City	4	Manchester City	2.22	40,310
Everton	5	Everton	2.12	38,500
Sheff Weds	6	Sheff Weds	2.12	39,855
Sheff Utd	7	Sheff Utd	2.01	31,089
Tottenham Hotspur	8	Tottenham Hotspur	2.17	33,147
Nottingham Forest	9	Nottingham Forest	2.06	30,539
West Ham United	10	West Ham United	1.98	26,014
Chelsea	11	Chelsea	1.73	28,600
Middlesbrough	12	Middlesbrough	1.83	30,000
Leeds United	13	Leeds United	1.71	40,000
Wimbledon	14	Wimbledon	1.47	26,500
Sheff Weds	15	Sheff Weds	1.51	36,020
Coventry City	16	Coventry City	1.48	23,500
Southampton	17	Southampton	1.43	15,000
Manchester City	18	Manchester City	1.32	28,053
QPR	19	QPR	1.34	18,919
Bolton Wanderers	20	Bolton Wanderers	1.18	20,500

The TV payments system under the current contract involves a base payment (£878,725 this past season) for all Premier League teams, topped up by extra payments each time a team appears on television. A payment of £77,255 is made to a team each time it features on Sky Television. An appearance on Match of the Day is worth £7,725. At the end of the season, each team is given a payment based on its standing in the league. The last place team is given £49,165 and the top finisher earns £49,165 multiplied by 20 (the number of teams in the league). All others are given an equivalent multiple based on their rank.

Premiership highlights to supplement the sporting events they have managed to retain for terrestrial television viewers (snooker, horse racing, some tennis and golf, the FA Cup and, of course, the Olympics). Neither has the money to bid for the live, exclusive rights to top football, which can only really work on pay-TV. But highlights alone could fetch as much as £20m a year, league insiders suggest.

So successful has the Premier League contract been for Sky that virtually every commercial broadcaster in the United Kingdom has looked at the idea of exclusive deal. Granada's chief executive, Charles Allen, decided in the end "it was far too risky. Certainly the ITV companies will want to bid for some of the high-

lights, but any other approach struck us as being ill-advised". Yorkshire-Tyne Tees also looked at the prospects of a bid, but found the figures being bandied about a bit too rich for its blood. "Everybody is getting too greedy," Ward Thomas, the company's chairman, said.

The list of senior broadcasters lining up for a shot at winning all or part of the Premiership contract is still very long: Rupert Murdoch, his lieutenant Sam Chisholm, Michael Green of Carlton Communications, Kelvin MacKenzie, managing director of Mirror Television, and, of course, both the BBC and ITV.

There are at least two serious contenders for the exclusive live rights: Murdoch's BSkyB and a consortium made up of Mirror Group and Carlton.

Murdoch's chief negotiator, Sam Chisholm, has earned a reputation for hard-voiced tactics, bullying and tenacity. Mike Southgate, head of sports at ITV Network Centre, said: "I'm

The two freely rubbish the other in private; and Chisholm's nickname for MacKenzie cannot be repeated in a family newspaper.

On the sidelines, Lord Hol-

'We broke the duopoly of BBC and ITV last time. This time, we expect to generate even more'

sure Sam won't let the Premier League slip away."

Opposing him is the Sun's former editor, MacKenzie, who clearly relishes the fight. The two men have been so frosty since MacKenzie's abrupt departure from BSkyB two years ago, after rows that insiders say were monumental.

lick's MAI is still interested, although it recently lost a potential partner, Pearson Television, which has elected to withdraw from the main battle, much to the apparent disappointment of its chief executive, the sport-mad millionaire broadcaster Greg Dyke. Pearson has revealed, however, that

it would supply general-interest programming to the new cable channel that Carlton and Mirror Group are planning to create if they win the contract.

Barring the emergence of a surprise bidder, two serious offers will be presented to the 20 Premiership chairmen in Coventry on 8 June. Neither group will discuss details of their bids, for obvious competitive reasons. But the Independent has learned that both BSkyB and Mirror/Carlton are offering an innovative revenue-sharing scheme, giving the Premier League a share in future revenues from broadcasts rather than a set figure, divided among the clubs.

That fits with the League's stated goal of retaining far more control over its rights this time around. "We managed

in the last contract to break the duopoly [of the BBC and ITV] and change the nature of the income we were receiving," says a League insider. "This time, we expect to generate even more."

Mirror/Carlton face an uphill struggle. The consortium intends to create a new channel, and offer the Premiership matches on cable. They are open to a subsidiary deal with BSkyB, whereby the country's 3 million satellite viewers will also be able to subscribe. But there are huge risks in any attempt to create a subscriber base from scratch. Cable is still in its infancy in the UK, with only 1.3 million homes connected. Moreover, digital cable - offering perhaps 150 channels - is even further off, and so the available capacity on the cable network is severely restricted

and pay-per-view not yet technically feasible.

Doubts about the timing of digital television could play into Mirror/Carlton's hands, however, as the clubs themselves are uncomfortable discussing pay-per-view rights.

An adviser to the clubs said: "Sky is not moving into pay-per-view for at least a couple of years, and it is dragging its feet over digital."

As a result, Mirror/Carlton may even be preparing to offer a radical one-year deal at four times the current level, in return for renewal rights later, when the digital revolution is truly upon us. A senior City banker advising the consortium told the Independent: "The chairman don't know what is coming. They think [the Coventry meeting] is just a standard normal meeting, but they are wrong. The existing contract could be torn up and redrafted for the 1996-97 season for four times the existing amount."

BSkyB, too, concedes that a new contract may not contain detailed proposals on pay-per-view. "The new technology won't be around for another two or three years," says Vic Wakeling, BSkyB's head of sport. "We are discussing all of this [with the League] but things are not going to change for a while."

More likely is an offer to extend the current contract, at a higher price, with a "framework" within which to discuss pay-per-view at a later date.

Virtually everyone in sport agrees that BSkyB has the edge. A senior ITV broadcaster said: "There will be more than one bidder but Sky will win it. They are bloody smooth operators."

They also have a controversial matching right in the current contract, allowing them to clinch renewal by equalling the best offer on the table.

Still, the Premier League insists that a renewal with Sky is not a foregone conclusion. The clubs have taken legal advice on the matching clause, and are convinced it could not stand up to legal scrutiny.

There is another reason BSkyB could have trouble securing the contract. Its existing agreement is already the subject of an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading, which could refer the matter to competition authorities. An adviser to one leading club said: "The OFT inquiry has trimmed Sky's ambitions and made them move more cautiously."

But BSkyB has a further advantage that Mirror/Carlton will find difficult to beat. It has a four-year track record broadcasting Premiership matches, and has introduced a range of innovations. "You've seen that others have had to follow," said one Premier League chairman.

Clubs aiming to call more of the shots in new contract talks

MATHEW HORSMAN

Without a doubt, the Premier League is in the driver's seat in the current negotiations to renew its television contract. Rick Parry, the Premier League's chief executive, is handling the talks personally, and has already told potential bidders he expects a sharp increase on the current £60m a year.

In the words of a Premier League insider: "There is an

endless range of options, and we haven't ruled anything in or out. It is no secret that we are open to the options, especially those that give the League a more enhanced role in the kinds of broadcasts viewers will see."

Translation? This time, the League wants to keep its rights intact - to dictate terms rather than allow the broadcasters to set conditions.

But Parry cannot act alone. The former accountant and

long-time football consultant has one of sport's toughest jobs: dealing with 20 outsized egos that run the country's top clubs. Their names are among the most recognisable in British sport and business: Alan Sugar, the self-made millionaire founder of Amstrad and chairman of Spurs or Ken Bates, the controversial chairman of Chelsea. They are proud, strong-willed owners and managers, and seldom agree on much.

Parry has proved expert at bringing them together on the issue of television rights. The Premier League deal with Sky, reached in 1992, was a triumph for Parry and a handful of activist chairmen, including Sugar.

For the first time, with the help of Sky Television, the top English clubs tapped a big share of the money that football can effortlessly generate.

The result was a massive improvement in stadium comfort,

huge sums paid for the world's best players and a healthy jump in attendance at football grounds - up 30 per cent since the first television contract was signed four years ago.

This time around, the League wants even more. But insiders insist the negotiations are about more than money. Club chairmen are concerned about the effect of saturation television on attendance at the grounds and want a contract that will give the

teams wide exposure on both terrestrial and pay-television without driving down receipts at the gate.

There is also friction between the very top teams - Manchester United, Newcastle, and Liverpool - and those lower down the league table. The best teams are juggernaut brand names in their own right, able to generate interest not only in the UK but abroad. Matches involving the top six teams could

earn a fortune for the club's owners. Manchester United have even looked at the prospects of launching their own cable channel.

But Parry has managed to keep the chairmen together on the issue of collective rights. "The deal has to be good for everyone, not just the top teams," says a Premier League source. "The mix of views is terribly important."

The League also wants to see

more money pumped into the game's development. The Football Trust, which funds ground improvements and finances youth training, could see its income from the pools and "spot the ball" competitions drop by 40 per cent this year to £20m because of the National Lottery. Alan Sugar and Newcastle United's Sir John Hall have both suggested redirecting television money - perhaps up to 25 per cent of the total - to the trust.

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مكتبة من الاصل

Chechen deal lifts Yeltsin's poll hopes

Rebels capitalise on proximity of election to negotiate truce

PHIL REEVES
and HELEN WOMACK
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin last night pulled off one of the most audacious and unlikely triumphs of his presidency after bringing the leader of the Chechen rebels to the Kremlin and signing a ceasefire agreement within hours of his arrival.

It means his chances of staying in the Kremlin have been given a crucial boost three weeks before the election, courtesy of the same Chechen leadership that he long vowed to wipe out, branding them bandits and murderers. The irony was overshadowed by the fact that Mr Yeltsin appears to have made concrete progress in fulfilling his election promise to end the 17-month conflict.

The deal, which happened so fast it seems certain to have been planned, came two hours after Mr Yeltsin sat down in the Kremlin with Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, successor to Dzhokhar Dudayev, who was assassinated last month. It comes into force on Saturday.

The meeting followed a decision by Chechen commanders to allow Mr Yandarbiyev to go to Moscow, even though it is headquarters of the same president the Chechens blame for destroying Grozny and killing many thousands of their soldiers and citizens.

Dressed in battle fatigues but armed only with promises of safe passage, the 44-year-old literary scholar and Chechen "president" flew to Moscow yesterday morning after being escorted to the airport by scores of rebel fighters. Police kept journalists at bay as he and his

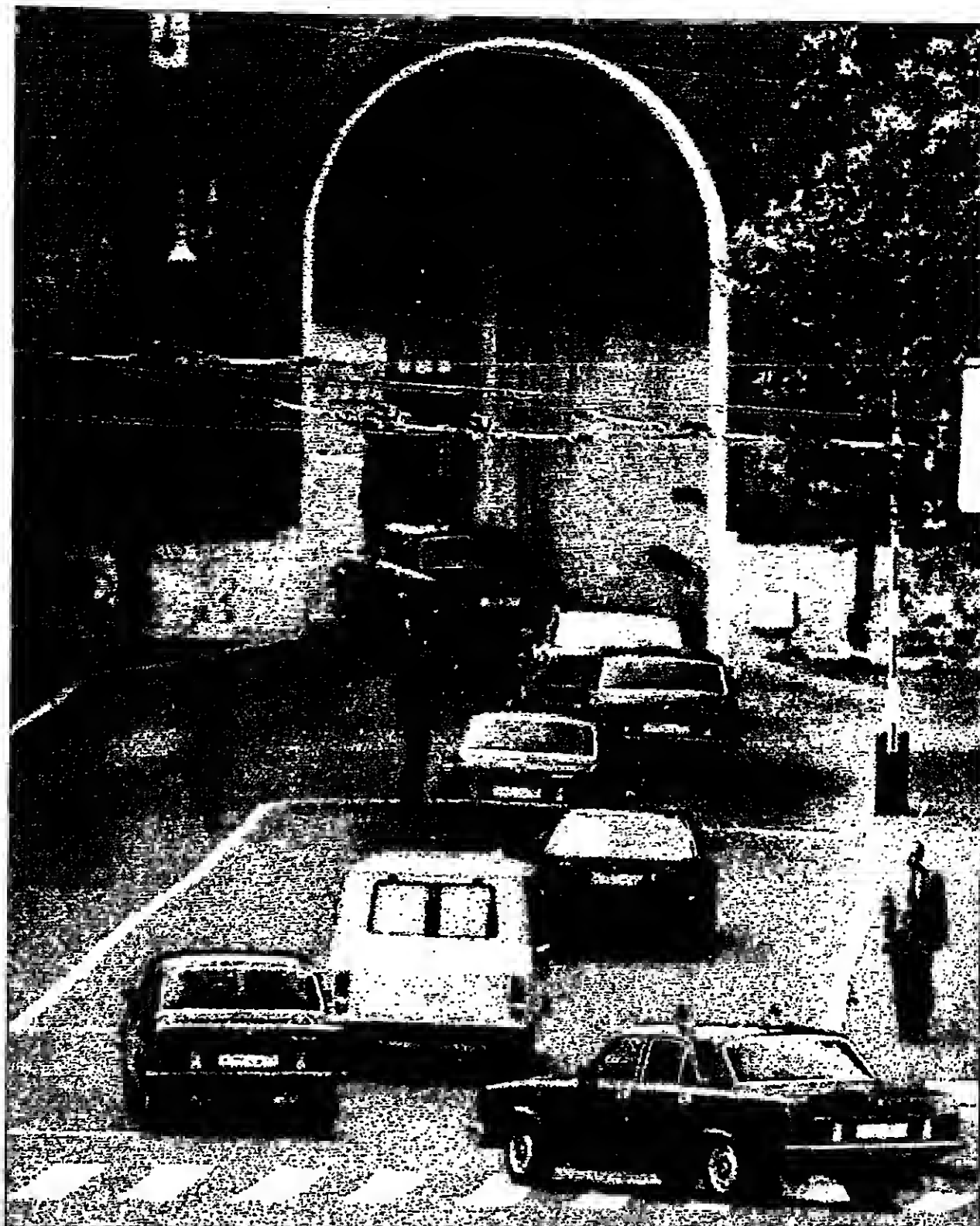
four-man delegation, with five bodyguards, landed at Moscow's airport for VIPs, Vnukovo-2, and drove to the Kremlin, where they were welcomed by Mr Yeltsin. In a bizarre twist, the delegates handed in their guns and were placed under the protection of the presidential guard, headed by Mr Yeltsin's confidant, General Alexander Korzhakov, earlier a strong advocate of the use of force against Chechnya.

Last night Russian and Chechen officials were working on details of the accord, which is expected to continue through-out today. Although there is still a risk the talks will founder, they are the biggest breakthrough in the conflict since last summer's failed peace efforts.

Although Mr Yeltsin is hated in much of Chechnya, the separatists' decision to talk with him now makes it clear they would rather see him in power than the Communists, who deported the Chechen nation to Central Asia in 1944. It means the Communist presidential candidate, Gennady Zyuganov, who claims to be moderate, is being held to account for the atrocities of Stalin.

A deal was possible because neither side had anything to lose but much to gain. As an insurance against an immediate breakdown, both agreed beforehand to keep the question of Chechnya's independence off the table for the time being, concentrating on accords struck during the talks last summer.

Chechen leaders know they can fight a guerrilla war indefinitely but that it will be difficult to win outright. With an election looming, chances of squeezing a favourable deal



Peace drive: The delegation of Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the Chechen 'president', arriving yesterday at the Kremlin, where a deal was done in two hours. The question of independence has been left till later. Photograph: AP

out of the Kremlin are at their best. And if the talks come to nothing, they will still have been able to use the break in hostilities to rearm and re-occupy Russian-held areas.

As the decree was signed by his Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Mr Yeltsin described it as historic, saying "we have resolved the key prob-

lem of peace in Chechnya". Asked how he could be sure it would stick, he replied: "We are unanimous." At that, Mr Yandarbiyev joked that his side was "even more unanimous".

Whether the same can be said of some Russian generals is in doubt. Hard-line elements have long been suspected of continuing hostilities in Chech-

nya for economic reasons or because they are determined to see the Chechens crushed.

When the talks, brokered by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, were announced last week, the Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, was furious the war was being wound down before the Chechens' final defeat.

Yesterday he moderated his position slightly, saying that the army supported the President's initiative.

But his words were ambiguous: "One can hardly convey one's stand better than it is done by the President: bandit-killing and professional mercenaries from abroad must be rendered harmless."

international Dole stakes costly claim on California

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

In a fund-raising dinner at a Beverly Hills hotel that raised half a million dollars for her husband's campaign, Elizabeth Dole warned listeners that she and her husband would be constant visitors between now and 5 November.

"Let me assure you that we are going to spend a lot of time with you in California. You are probably going to get sick of the Doles before this is over," Mrs Dole said. Her audience had paid \$1,000 a piece to hear those words - on the day two weeks ago when her husband resigned from the Senate to devote himself full time to the presidential race.

Today, Senator Bob Dole embarks on a campaign swing through California. The three-city tour provides the strongest evidence yet of a decision by the Dole camp to challenge Bill Clinton on his home territory.

The Republican Party is reportedly planning to shower California with \$3.5m (£2.3m) in television advertising in the coming weeks. "The central point of this trip is to come in here and stake a claim," said Ken Khachigian, a Republican strategist.

Pressure from local Republicans struggling to keep their tenuous hold on the California legislature, and from party leaders in Congress worried about a string of marginal seats, may have played a role in the decision to test Mr Clinton's strength in a state where he holds a seemingly invincible lead.

But forcing Democrats to concentrate money and effort defending California could also put the Clinton campaign off-balance in the main battlegrounds in the mid-West. George Bush's decision to write off the state in 1992 - where he, too, lagged well behind - is now regarded as a mistake that may have cost him the White House.

"They finally figured out that to cede California this early means that Bill Clinton can take the millions of dollars and valuable time and energy and resources and target them to other states that are much more

competitive," said California analyst Sherry Jeffie.

"It will cost them a little money, but to give California to Clinton was pretty much tantamount to allowing him the electoral coalition he needs to win."

In California, with a hefty 54 electoral college votes, President Clinton leads in the most recent polls by as much as 20 points.

He has assiduously cultivated its voters since his election, making a record number of trips to the state. Even in Orange County, famous as a conservative bastion, he is doing well. Mr Clinton has visited the McDonnell Douglas plant to announce a new contract for the

"They finally figured out that to cede California means Clinton can target other states"

company's giant C-17 military cargo jets, and made soothing noises over the high price of petrol for California's car-loving communities. Women's issues, particularly abortion, are also regarded as a key.

Mrs Dole, a former Secretary of Transportation and president of the Red Cross, has been elevated by the Dole campaign as the model of a working woman. But her conservative stand on abortion - she is described as a born-again Christian - could tell against her.

Mr Dole is scheduled to appear in Los Angeles, San Diego, and the state capital, Sacramento. Republican advertisements are set to attack Mr Clinton's integrity and raise the sexual harassment suit brought against him.

At a cost of nearly half a million dollars a week, paid for by the national party, it seems that they will seek to "define" Mr Clinton rather than Mr Dole.

Border town faces fresh threat to imperial lifeline

ELIZABETH NASH
La Linea de la Concepcion

In the Spanish town of La Linea, north of Gibraltar, they hate the border that smudges the two communities. Spaniards in the lee of the Rock - 1,500 of whom walk through hefty police controls every day to work in the British colony - want a little more human contact.

"La Linea and Gibraltar are linked by blood and geography," said the town's mayor, Jose Antonio Fernandez Pons. "For us the sovereignty issue is quite distinct from domestic day-to-day policy. We want some mutual understanding: the prosperity of the whole area depends on it."

Madrid, which claims the British colony as its own, has imposed stiff border controls against Gibraltar's smuggling and alleged money laundering that lead to long queues and traffic delays. Spaniards who work on the Rock resent the wearying hold-ups. And Gibraltarians are put off from crossing to La Linea's lively market, causing a recent slump in trade of some 40 per cent in an already depressed area.

La Linea is furious. "We've always been ignored by Madrid in its policy towards Gibraltar," Mr Pons complained. "We want to be taken into account. I'm not sure these measures are effective against drug trafficking and money laundering."

He is incensed by warnings from Spain's new Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, that the border may be closed if Gibraltar does not stamp out illegal activities. Mr Pons said: "We are in total disagreement with Mr Matutes' suggestion, and I've sought a meeting with him to answer our demands."

La Linea owes its existence to the British colony. For centuries the people of the city served the imperial rulers of the Rock, rather as medieval traders and artisans gathered at the gate of the rich man's castle. When Franco closed the border in 1967, he cut the city's lifeline.

Tens of thousands of inhabitants dispersed throughout Spain. The 65,000 who



'La Linea and Gibraltar are linked by blood and geography.' La Linea and the Rock of Gibraltar during the mid-1980s, when Franco caused depopulation when he closed the border. The town has since staged a partial recovery but unemployment remains Spain's highest and may rise further thanks to Madrid's tougher new customs restrictions

remained in this scruffy, unprepossessing border town, scratched a living by subsistence farming, shady dealing or contraband. Smuggling was the underside of what they had been doing for centuries: supplying the British garrison. The infrastructure was there. Poverty and unemployment did the rest.

Unemployment in the Campo de Gibraltar, the area around the Rock, is 40 per cent, the highest in Spain. Father Pepe Chamizo, a priest who has worked for 20 years among drug addicts in this marginal society, said: "We've got two frontiers here. One with Gibraltar, the other with Morocco, which is only a few miles away. Some effects are positive, like our tolerance of different races and cultures, and our improvisational talent. But others are negative, especially the spirit of *trapicheo* [shady dealing]."

Fr Chamizo is convinced that Gibraltar is a bridgehead for drug dealing. "There was a period last year when it was frozen, but in the last four months there's a lot more hashish around. The traders are eluding the controls."

The local Guardia Civil picked up nine tonnes of hashish smuggled from Morocco in the last four months. "This is one of the areas of Spain where there is the most contraband, because Morocco is just across the water," said Lieutenant Sebastian, captain of La Linea's Civil Guard.

Tobacco smuggling has declined since last year, he says, with the elimination of most of the Gibraltar-based smugglers' laundries. But women known as *matuteras* still stuff cartons of cigarettes into their blouses and smuggle them across the border or fling them over the perimeter fence.

Hashish trafficking, however,

remains undiminished, much of it unloaded on to La Linea's long tranquil beach at La Alunera and further up the coast.

Gibraltar is a haven of drug money laundering. Fr Chamizo says, something the Gibraltarians deny. "You can buy a company for £300 and shunt money from one to the other and no one knows what's going on. It's called financial engineering. Spanish banks open a branch in Gibraltar and use it to launder money," he claims.

Traffickers from Galicia, Spain's drug-running mecca, visit Gibraltar banks, Fr Chamizo says, and briefcases of money have been intercepted at the frontier. "The Gibraltarians are against all this, but they have no resources of their own. If there's no aid to compensate for Britain's economic withdrawal from the Rock, they've got to get an income from somewhere."

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international

Democrats claim victory in Albania amid poll turmoil

ANDREW GUMBEL

Albania's young democracy was thrown into turmoil yesterday as the country's ruling Democratic Party claimed a crushing victory in Sunday's general elections. But the opposition, ranging from former Communists to free-market conservatives, refused to recognise the result, saying it had been obtained through intimidation, violence and widespread cheating at the polls.

Some results were announced before counting was complete. President Sali Berisha, who has ruled the country with increasing authoritarianism and disregard for human rights over the past four years, claimed his party had clinched more than 60 per cent of the vote — a seemingly incredible result which far exceeded the most optimistic opinion-poll forecasts and predictions by foreign observers.

A number of Democratic Party candidates were credited with 80 per cent or more of the vote in their constituencies. Tritan Shehu, the party chairman, was said to have polled 92 per cent in Kavaja. Of the 115

seats being decided by a majority system, as many as 112 were last night claimed for the party in power — even though some ballots from more remote rural areas were yet to be collected, much less counted.

Even at the height of its popularity, in 1992, the Democratic Party polled no more than 62 per cent. At that time it was the spearhead of a popular movement to rid Albania

"Members of local electoral commissions from our parties were attacked by the security services and by gangsters manipulated by the Democratic Party," said Gramoz Pashko, a leading economist running with the centre-right Democratic Alliance. "Our people... were prepared to defend themselves, but we decided to withdraw from the election instead to avoid civil unrest."

Other observers who expressed an immediate opinion were largely split along party-political lines: the Belgian Socialist Thérèse Boutsen reported violent clashes between opposition supporters and the police, and Urban Ahlin of Sweden alleging widespread ballot-stuffing. But the pro-Berisha Italian deputy Fiorenzo Provera excluded any systematic vote-rigging, saying the election had passed off far more peacefully than he had expected.

Several European countries actively supported Mr Berisha

who deserved a full defeat, has lost," he told a news conference. The elections were monitored by several hundred international observers, but their reaction to the ballot yesterday was slow and confused. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) acknowledged "a number of irregularities", but said it was too soon to say whether the result of the elections was fair.

It is unclear what will happen next. If the election results are allowed to stand, Albania will in effect turn into a one-party state, with Mr Berisha's men wielding near-total control not only over government and parliament, but also over the judiciary and the country's other key institutions. If the opposition manages to organise widespread protests on the streets, then the country risks sliding into an ugly civil conflict.

Yesterday, the atmosphere in Tirana appeared calm, with street cafes full, and people going about their business. One Tirana resident said: "I don't think many people will turn out for the opposition demonstration because they understand it could turn very ugly and they are afraid."

The opposition said the result had been obtained by intimidation, violence and widespread cheating

of its hard-line Communist past. Since then, however, it has shed many original members who have fallen out with Mr Berisha, and is regarded by many Albanians as a corrupt and authoritarian ruling force.

Nine opposition groups, including the Socialist Party (the former Communists), pulled out of the election while the polls were still open on Sunday evening, alleging that voters and returning officers had been systematically intimidated and citing several cases of beatings and arrests.

Mr Berisha, in reply, accused the opposition of being bad losers. "A group of Marxists,

who deserved a full defeat, has lost," he told a news conference. The elections were monitored by several hundred international observers, but their reaction to the ballot yesterday was slow and confused. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) acknowledged "a number of irregularities", but said it was too soon to say whether the result of the elections was fair.

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Triumphant: A Democratic Party supporter riding through the streets of Tirana yesterday, celebrating the electoral victory claimed by the ruling party. Photograph: Rudi Blaha/AP

Passion for Conrad bears fruit 50 years on

Nerac — In the depths of the Lot and Garonne region of south-west France, only a couple of hours from Bordeaux, but worlds away from that city or any other, lives a redoubtable lady by the name of Odette Lamolle. Her house, and home for more than four decades, stands alone on top of a steep rise, half-a-mile from the main road. The sitting-room gives onto a vast garden and paddock, and the view from the "farmhouse" kitchen, looks over acres of forest that roll in layered shades of green to the horizon. It is in this house that Mme Lamolle, now 85, undertook her life's work — except that no one, not even she herself, recognised it as such until a year ago. For half a century, Mme Lamolle outlived a passion for the works of Joseph Conrad and systematically translated them into French "for pleasure". She also translated a number of Byron's letters and poems and some of Shakespeare's sonnets.

But her first love was Conrad, and she was frustrated that existing translations were too old-fashioned and formalistic to appeal to younger French readers. She was spurred on in her effort by her then teenage daughter, Brigitte, who to her mother's chagrin took an instant dislike to Conrad's *Lord Jim*.

Gradually the manuscripts piled up. She would write quickly, by hand — "you have to translate fast", she said, "to keep the rhythm of the original language, his music, and put it into real French" — then painstakingly type it out with two fingers on a manual typewriter. By the early 1990s, she had completed 26 works.

Then one day, almost exactly a year ago, the nephew of a friend mentioned that he had heard about her translations and asked whether he could see a few of them. He passed them to the head of a Paris publishing house, Editions Autrement.

Within eight days, the director was on her doorstep, asking to see the rest. Just 24 hours later he called her from Paris offering to publish not just one or two of her Conrad translations, but all 26.

So began what she calls her "fairy tale". Ten books published so far, and the eleventh about to follow — all in the handsome, restrained dust jackets characteristic of Editions Autrement. And Mme Lamolle finds herself, in her 80s, something of a celebrity.

No less remarkable for someone who has made her name as a translator of literature from English, is that she has not once set foot in Britain, and has absolutely no inclination to do so.



Celebrity: Odette Lamolle, 85, holds one of her translations of a Joseph Conrad novel. Photograph: Jean-Claude Marouze

"Too old, too late", she said, without perceptible regret. For as well as being a translator of dedication, Mme Lamolle is also a daughter of her age. Born to a Bordeaux businessman and his concert pianist wife, she acquired her command of English from an English governess engaged initially to teach her elder sister.

The house was staffed — she will say no more than that — and there were certain things that young ladies did not do. One was competitive horse-riding, which she desperately wanted to do; the other was to go to England alone at the age of 20. Already a Conrad-enthusiast, she hoped to train as an English teacher. But, to qualify, she

had to spend time in Britain. Her family refused. She stayed at home, married, produced a daughter and busied herself with accomplishments more appropriate to her station: gardening, sewing and keeping her beloved horses. Having failed to write a novel — "so bad even my daughter couldn't read it" — she started translating "to exercise the brain".

The war brought many uncertainties, but for Madame Lamolle it yielded one dividend: the foreign residence requirement for language teachers was relaxed.

Odette Lamolle finally realised her ambition, qualified, and taught in Bordeaux for 18 months before concluding that, after all, it was not for her. She went on to help with the family business and returned to translating only in 1980, after her husband's death.

What appeals to her about Conrad is partly the sense of adventure and atmosphere, but also the "charm of the language and the complexity of the characters". This is why she prefers Conrad to, for instance, Sir Walter Scott — "pure adventure, no complexity".

Mme Lamolle is a woman of precision — in dress, language and opinions. Asked about the books lining her sitting room, she said: "The classics: Rous-

seau, Racine, Corneille..." Her daughter interjected: "... Voltaire." But Mme Lamolle said: "Absolutely not Voltaire. Can't stand him."

Mme Lamolle's lifestyle retains much of the Anglo-French mix of her early years. She is still passionate about horses and two can be seen grazing in the paddock. But they are not hers; she lets the land to a neighbour. "Now I have the best of both worlds," she said. "I can see horses all day, but don't have to look after them."

She smokes Gitanes (in large quantities), but first asks her guest if she may. Mid-afternoon is tea time, and the tea is served in china cups, with fruitcake.

She regards her tardy encounter with the publishing world as nothing short of a miracle. The money (she declines to mention how much) comes in useful — "but you know translators aren't very well paid". At first, she thought about putting it to some special use. But then, "mostly it just went into the general housekeeping pot. We needed to do some repairs, and it just seemed to vanish."

Now, she is translating Conrad's memoirs. She finds them far less to her taste than the novels, but will finish them for the sake of completeness.

Mary Dejevsky

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

U.S. and Czech relations — The Czech prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, has been accused of being a "puppet" of the German finance minister, Hans Eichel, after Klaus's visit to Berlin on Friday to apologise for the Czech Republic's role in the 1945-46 expulsions of more than two million Germans from Czech lands. Klaus's visit was a rally prior to this year's elections in the Czech Republic. Klaus's visit was a rally prior to this year's elections in the Czech Republic. Klaus's visit was a rally prior to this year's elections in the Czech Republic.

The black box — Cockpit voice recorder of the DC-9 which crashed, killing all 110 passengers and crew near Miami on Tuesday, is being studied by crash investigators. The recorder was found at the Everglades swamp site on Wednesday. It was found in a swampy area, and the investigators are trying to determine the cause of the crash. The recorder was found at the Everglades swamp site on Wednesday. It was found in a swampy area, and the investigators are trying to determine the cause of the crash.

British aid worker — A British aid worker was killed at the weekend by a car that stole his car in central Kenya. The spokesman for the aid group Farm Africa said. The spokesman said the body of Chris Morris was found near the town of Kijigao, 50 miles north-east of Nairobi. Kijigao is home to Kenya's only police college. Nairobi newspapers reported that a gang led by Gerald Wambugu Munyeria, listed among Kenya's "most-wanted" men, had hijacked Mr Morris's car in Kijigao. The car was found abandoned deep in the forest of Kamipi Sita (Six Camps), a tourist site in central Kenya. *Reuters — Nairobi*

The Pope has been asked to settle a debate over the authority of the Philippines' state-run lottery. The head of the sweepstakes, Manuel Morato, sought Pope John Paul II's public intervention to halt a war of words between him and Philippine Roman Catholic church leaders and local government officials. Testifying before the Senate ethics and amusements committee, Mr Morato accused church leaders of opposing the lottery of hypocrisy. Officials said the Roman Catholic church is a major recipient of charity funds produced by state-run casinos, sweepstakes and lotteries. *AP — Manila*

Right-wingers emerged victorious in Cyprus and Communist-backed forces in the country's parliamentary elections as the second biggest party. Campaigning had been dominated by the island's 32-year-old division; the election results for the island's Greek Cypriot parliament were denounced by Rauf Denktaş, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, as failing to offer any hope of bringing the two communities together. Turkish Cypriots, led by a government recognised only by Turkey, did not take part in the vote. *Reuters — Nicosia*

Two South Africans posing as Liberian royalty were arrested for trying to spend blackened paper. They said the paper would be revealed as US dollars if a chicken was slaughtered and its blood drunk. Captain Anton Smit of the police fraud unit said the three men replied to an advertisement by a businessman wishing to sell a building for 1.5m rand (£223,000). The suspects told the man they had \$1.5m (£1m) which they had had to hide to get it out of war-torn Liberia. *Reuters — Johannesburg*

Between a rock and a hard place

Patrick Cockburn talks to the people of Jerusalem as Israel prepares for its day of reckoning

Section Two, Cover Story

Treasure Hunting

Forget about sunken treasure — just as rich a bounty is to be found on dry land, just a few inches below your feet, and all you need is the simplest of equipment and a little spare time. Carnell plc will shortly be publishing a new guide to treasure hunting, including what to look for, where to look for it and how to find it. To find out more, send for a FREE introductory fact sheet on Treasure Hunting — with no obligation now or ever. For your free copy write to Carnell plc, Dept TH2, Alresford, nr. Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP.



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مكتبة الأناضول

Indian regime set to lose vote of confidence

Collapse of newly elected right-wing Hindu party bodes ill for stability, writes **Tim McGirk**

New Delhi — India's new Hindu nationalist government looks set to fall today, less than a fortnight after taking power. The opposition parties are pushing through a no confidence motion in parliament which the minority government of Atal Behari Vajpayee is unlikely to survive.

The collapse of the right-wing Hindu party's leadership will probably usher in a series of short-lived and quarrelsome coalition governments. After recent elections, no party is close to a majority in the 543-seat Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament.

From the moment Mr Vajpayee, 69, was sworn in on 16 May as leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the largest group in parliament, he has been scrambling to muster support for his minority government but without success. Fearing possible defections, the opposition left-wing parties corralled their MPs inside a state guest house in New Delhi, keeping them well fed and far away from the BJP's coarings.

In today's vote, the Hindu nationalist party and its allies may fail by 60 or 70 seats to grasp the needed majority. It will be challenged by the United Front (UF), a hastily assembled coalition of 13 parties which must rely on outside backing from the Congress party, led by the outgoing Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao.

The next contender for prime minister is Dev Gowda, leader of the UF and master of unity. "I will not describe myself as an economic reformer. I am just a peasant. I know what good for the poor people," he said recently. Mr Gowda's first task of choosing a cabinet — one that will keep all 13 parties and Congress happy — will be the test of whether Mr Gowda is the day country humpkin he pretends to be.

With the future so uncertain,



Brief ruler: Atal Behari Vajpayee the prime minister, arriving at parliament yesterday where he is canvassing support

'India would never become a theocratic state. Even if such a demand were made, we would oppose it tooth and nail'

all party leaders sought help at the weekend from the divine. Mr Vajpayee visited the Sikh's holy shrine, the Golden Temple, and the Hindu Durgiana Mandir, both in Amritsar, Punjab, while Mr Gowda ventured south to pray to Hindu gods. Mr Rao had offerings performed in his residence by pundits, though his favourite guru, Chandraswamy, is in jail facing criminal charges.

In parliament yesterday, Mr Vajpayee played down his party's reputation for religious chauvinism. "India would nev-

er become a theocratic state... Even if such a demand were made in the future, we will oppose it tooth and nail," he told the Lok Sabha while his opponents hooted.

Trying to shed its image as a party which appeals only to the upper-caste Hindus, Mr Vajpayee had appointed a Muslim, a tribal and an untouchable Hindu to his stillborn cabinet. But the Congress speaker, Sharad Pawar, dismissed this as mere illusion and jeered at the BJP for selecting "an ornamental Muslim".

Mr Vajpayee accused the other parties of "ganging up" on the BJP. What the premier says is true: the UF is united only in keeping the Hindu nationalists out of power. Now that they are succeeding in ousting the BJP, Mr Gowda's unruly team of left-wingers, lower-caste parties and regional strongmen may start feuding once they have moved into their plush government bungalows and start riding around New Delhi in their bullet-proof Ambassador cars.

A self-confessed yoked like Mr Gowda may be easily mastered by the Congress party leader, Mr Rao, a consummate intriguer. The Congress said it would endorse a UF government as long as it followed "pro-poor" policies, but Mr Rao's support may have many hidden strings.

Mr Vajpayee has not accomplished much for India during his brief term in power, but the Hindu nationalists are pursuing longer-term goals. The BJP strategists are confident that the leftist coalition will inevitably shatter and Congress will withdraw its backing for Mr Gowda. Then India will face another round of punishing mid-term polls. Mr Vajpayee is hoping that the tameness shown by the BJP during its brief tenure will convince the voters that only the Hindu nationalists can restore stability to Mother India.



Voice of defiance: Aung San Suu Kyi speaking to reporters yesterday about her fears for more than 250 activists from her National League for Democracy who were arrested last week. She predicted some could be jailed indefinitely by the junta. Photograph: Reuters

international

Words of hope reverberate across Burma

ROBERT HORN
Associated Press

Rangoon — As long as the generals who rule Burma by fear control the media, Burmese will never read a speech by the pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, in the newspapers.

Yet the day after Ms Suu Kyi delivered an address vowing to increase opposition to the military government in response to the arrests of hundreds of her supporters, most of Rangoon's 4 million people knew exactly what she had said. And they loved every word of it.

"It was a fantastic speech. She was more defiant than usual," Thein Nyunt, a mechanic, said yesterday. "I was too afraid to go. But my father went and taped it, and I think it was great."

The people of Burma appreciate the defiance of the Oxford-educated Ms Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her non-violent promotion of democracy. But they are afraid to show too much open support, remembering that the military dictatorship gunned down hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1988.

Though up to 10,000 people gathered outside her home on Sunday for her usual weekend speech — the greatest show of public support since her release last July from six years of house arrest — millions more stayed at home. Fear runs so deep in Rangoon that the army has not even called out extra soldiers, despite the political tension. As monsoon rains swept the palm-lined roads yesterday, the city went about its business as usual.

But some of the few Burmese ready to risk speaking to foreigners commented in the dank shop houses and crowded tea-rooms that the only topic of conversation was Sunday's speech. Like Thein Nyunt, they had heard it on tape.

Ms Suu Kyi and fellow leaders of her National League for Democracy fired stinging rebukes against the authorities for arresting nearly all the delegates to the party's most important conference in six years. They demanded that the opposition victory in parliamentary elections in May 1990 finally be recognised.

"Giving into bullying is not good," Ms Suu Kyi said. "We must have the courage to face the bully's challenge."

Scores of people, some holding as many as half a dozen cassette-recorders, taped her words. The tapes made it around the city before morning, and others will penetrate the countryside in a few days. They also reach the desks of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

As the authorities replay the words, they will not like what they hear — through the poor sound quality come applause and cheers.

The state-controlled press yesterday called Ms Suu Kyi a "maggot" and tool of a United States conspiracy to enslave Burma by introducing democracy and human rights. The people, the press says, love and support the junta.

But what do the people say? "They are bullies," said a young woman in a print shop, echoing Ms Suu Kyi's speech. She refused to give her name, fearing arrest.

"MI are always listening," said a tour guide, referring to Military Intelligence. "You must always be careful what you say, because you never know who they are."

Ms Suu Kyi said this weekend she feels the Burmese may be too paranoid — but they had good reason "because of the sheer number of Military Intelligence people running around".

The climate of fear is represented in Burma's currency black market. The official exchange rate for the kyat is six for \$1. On the black market, the kyat was recently trading at 139 per dollar. Rumours that the military had blocked off streets to Ms Suu Kyi's home caused the kyat to plummet.

"Business is bad. I lost 100,000 kyats this weekend," said an Indian-Burmese woman who changes money in the back of her grocery shop. Though the black market is no secret, it remains illegal.

"People liked the speech, but they don't expect any change," said the currency trader. "Nobody can make this government do anything they don't want to do. They have all the guns."

Support grows for Israeli right

PARICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

In the final days of the Israeli election campaign, polls show Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, the right-wing candidate, closing in on Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister. A poll yesterday showed Mr Netanyahu only 2.4 per cent behind Mr Peres, well within the pollsters' margin of error.

The poll was taken before the campaign's only television debate on Sunday night in which Mr Netanyahu appeared more forceful and lucid than Mr Peres. Agitated again he repeated that the peace process of which Mr Peres is the architect has left Israel frightened to take a bus for fear of being blown up.

Mr Netanyahu has also received support from ultra-orthodox — rabbis whose followers vote as a block. Mr Peres never expected to get a majority of the Israeli Jewish vote, but hopes that a full turn out of Israeli-Arabs will put him over the top.

A poll after the debate showed that 45 per cent of voters thought Mr Netanyahu won while 41 per cent thought Mr Peres was more convincing. The fact that Labour agreed to a debate at all caused some surprise since their campaign strategy has been to portray Mr Peres, 72, as the experienced statesman compared to the callow Mr Netanyahu, 46. Instead, Mr Peres looked tired and unable to answer Mr Netanyahu's questions about security.

Two polls show the Prime Minister's slim lead of 4 per cent eroding over the weekend. A poll in the newspaper *Yedioth Aharnot* conducted just before the debate showed Mr Peres had 49.5 per cent and Mr Netanyahu 47.1 per cent, down from 51 per cent for Mr Peres and 45 per cent for the Likud leader before.

Those not expressing a preference fell from 4 per cent to 3.4 per cent. Tomorrow's election, in which 4 million Israelis will vote, has been fought in the shadow of suicide bomb attacks by Hamas and Islamic Jihad in February and March which killed 63 people. Hamas leaders were yesterday reported to be debating a new strategy of halting attacks on Israel.

A Hamas official in Gaza said there were differences between local leaders of the Muslim movement and hard-line exiled leaders, which have intensified. "We must have the decision-making power concerning our affairs. We know better how to run our business than exiled leaders who are isolated from events here," he said.

Meanwhile an Israeli-Arab adviser to Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, said yesterday that he thought Mr Netanyahu would win the election. Ahmed Tibi said Israel's bombardment of Lebanon last month, in which more than 200 civilians were killed, cost Mr Peres crucial support among Israeli-Arabs, who make up 12 per cent of the electorate.

Cover Story, Section Two

Tiananmen date delays freedom for jailed official

TERESA POOLE
Peking

Question: When is a released prisoner not really released because the date is inconvenient? Answer: when a former senior Chinese government official's seven-year term for "counter-revolutionary incitement" is due to end days before the sensitive anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre of 4 June 1989.

Yesterday Bao Tong, 63, former secretary to the Politburo Standing Committee, completed his sentence and was taken by police to a well-guarded bungalow outside Peking. He was the only senior official jailed over the pro-democracy protests; his family said he would not be allowed home until after the anniversary.

Mr Bao was privy to decision-making at the highest levels of the party and a potential source of information that could damage some of China's present leaders.

He has been denied his "political rights" for a further two years, which forbids him from talking to foreign journalists.

Separatists in the Xinjiang region assassinated a pro-government Muslim leader in a series of political killings, Reuters reports. Pro-independence "splittists" in the regional capital, Urumqi, had killed six or seven people and injured four since February, a local official said, adding that the killings of the the mullah, Akonmu Sidike, an adviser and two policemen were all politically motivated. "The splittists called him a spy of the Communist Party."

Muslim separatists also killed a vice-chairman of Xinjiang's political consultative conference on 29 April, the official said.

In a call for action that appeared to indicate there was sympathy for separatists among some cadres in the mainly Muslim region, the official *Xinjiang Daily* demanded a crackdown on party members tolerating "terrorism".

"Party members... implicated in political bombings, assassinations or other violent terrorist activities must be immediately investigated and punished with due severity."



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12 obituaries/gazette

Virgil Ross

Bugs Bunny, the "Wascally Wabbit" who always eluded the half-pint huntsman Elmer Fudd, Tweedle Pie, the canary bird who "Tut-tut" he saw a pudgy tail named Sylvester ("Sufferin' Succotash!"), and Speedy Gonzales, the fastest mouse in Mexico, are but three of the world's top animated cartoon stars who today must surely be shedding a tear over the loss of an animator who, whilst not their creative parent, surely thought them to life. Virgil Ross, the brilliant film cartoonist who spent over 30 years in "Termite Terrace", as the animation studio on the Warner Brothers lot was affectionately called by its inmates, has died at the age of 88.

Ross was born in 1908 and first linked his talent to draw with a love for the movies by becoming a title designer in the waning years of the silent cinema. Always an enthusiast for the animated cartoon shorts which he had seen in the days of his childhood, he decided to seize his opportunity when he heard that Carl Laemmle, the tycoon behind Universal Pictures, was setting up his own cartoon studio under the talented young director, Walter Lantz. Laemmle took the character of Oswald the Lucky Rabbit away from the entrepreneur Charles Mintz, who in turn had appropriated it from Walt Disney, because he thought it would be cheaper to produce his own short films instead of having to pay additional profits to independent producers.



Oswald the Lucky Rabbit: Ross learnt his trade working with Walt Disney's old character

This shrewd if somewhat sharp move meant Universal was the first major Hollywood studio to own its own cartoon unit, staffed by salaried employees, and Lantz was perfectly happy to turn out 26 monochrome one-reelers a year, even if it did mean taking in on equal terms a partner to share the load. This was the veteran animator Bill Nolan, and under this talented team of two the two Virgil Ross learnt his trade.

The year was 1929, and Lantz's first job was to add soundtracks to the Oswald Rabbit cartoons in stock, which gave his group time to work out how to make talkie cartoons from scratch. Titles like *Saucy Sausages* (1929), *Tramping Tramps* (1930) and *Trolley Troubles* (1931) rolled off the animation assembly line, with now and then an unusual science-fiction item such as *Mars* (1930) and *The Mechanical Man* (1932). A new character was created to take the pressure off Oswald the Rabbit, and Poach the Pup made his debut in *The Abductor* (1932), and later in an impressive parody of the Edgar Wallace horror film *King Kong*, called *King Khrnk* (1933), this was the first ever cartoon to be designated "Horrorific" by the nervous British Board of Film Censors.

In 1935 Fred (shortly to be rechristened Tex) Avery moved from the Lantz studio to the newish set-up at Warner Brothers, where, like Melodies and Looney Tunes were being made with rather more care and certainly more jokes than those at Universal. Avery took his

favourite animator Virgil Ross with him. Ross would remain at Warners for the rest of his animating life – although Avery himself would make one more major career move.

Forty Pig, the stuttering swine who had made his debut in the Merrie Melody *I Haven't Got a Hat* (1935), reciting "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" to Miss Cudd the Cow, starred in the first production of the Avery-Ross partnership. It was called *Plane Dippy* (1936) and showed the fat porker joining the Air Corps and getting tangled up with a mad monkey's robot airplane. The first new character to come from the couple was a totally whacky black duck, Nameless, who was killed as "That crazy darn fool duck", but soon was dubbed Daffy. The film was *Porky's Duck Hunt* (1937). The quacker returned the following year as titular star of *Daffy Duck and Egghead* (1938), the first Merrie Melody to be filmed in Technicolor.

For some years Ross was credited on seldom more than two films a year, which suggests that Warners allowed more production time per film than they would a decade later. In 1941 Ross is credited with nine cartoons, while both 1951 and 1953 clock up totals of 10. Bugs Bunny, who adapted his name from his designer, Ben "Bugs" Hardaway, made his fourth film appearance in Avery's remarkable *A Wild Hare* (1940), becoming a fully fledged star complete with catchphrase, "What's up Doc?" Elmer Fudd, too, was here fully established as the hissing "Wabbit hunter", as voiced by the radio comedian Arthur Q. Bryan. For Ross it was his first Academy Award nomination: several more would follow.

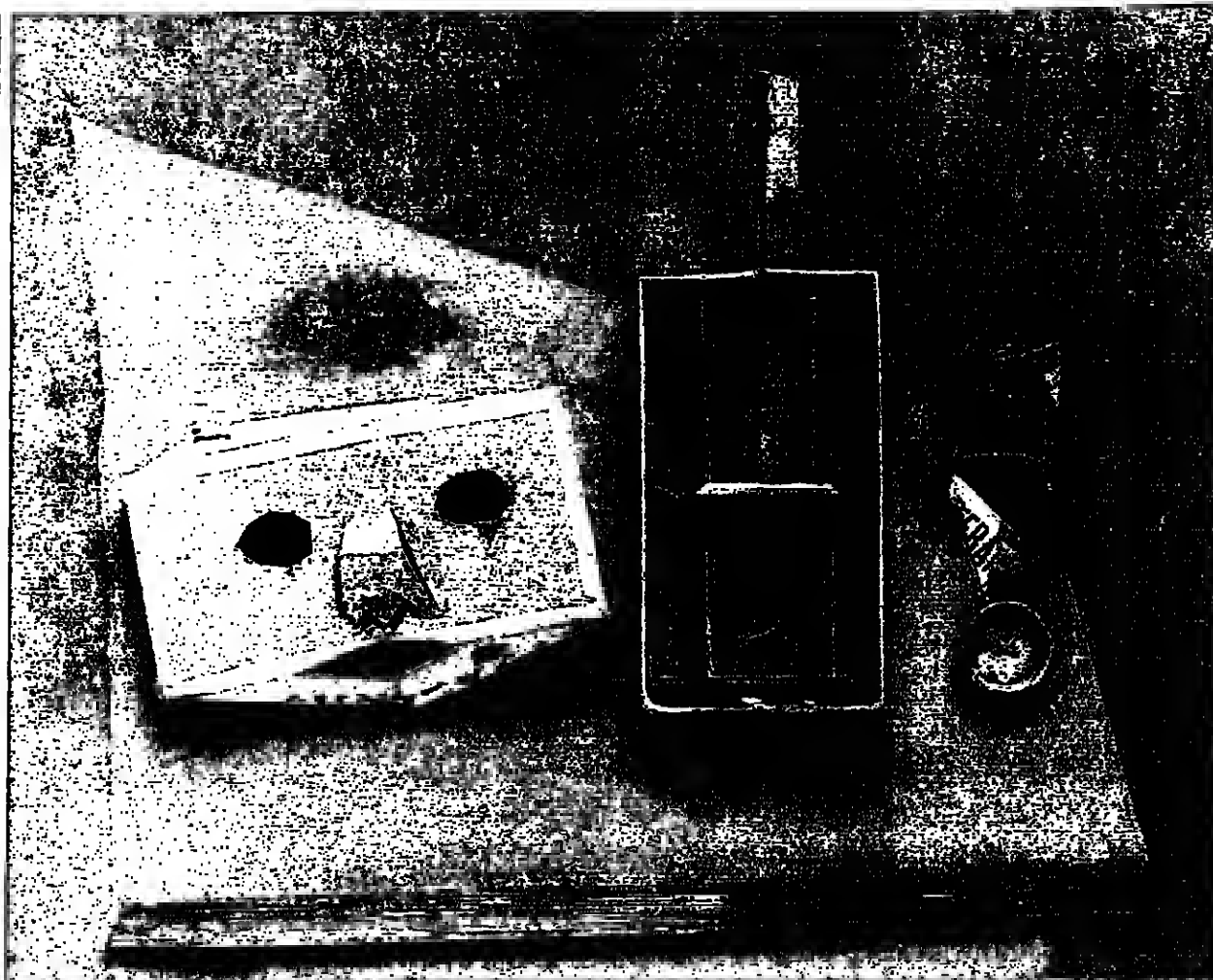
In 1942 Tex Avery moved over to MGM to head his own unit. Ross stayed on with Warner Brothers and found himself seconded to the well-established and truly wonderful director, Isidore "Fritz" Freleng. Sylvester Pussycat the raspberry-hoing feline was first animated by Ross in *Life With Feathers* (1945), although the feathers in question belonged to a little lovebird, Tweedle Pie the canary came along later, co-starring with Sylvester in a film called *I Taw a Puddy Tat* (1948). Freleng also created the perfect opposition to Bugs Bunny, the sawn-off but hairy cowboy, Yosemite Sam, and Ross animated them in *Shutty on the Bunny* (1950) and many more. Other regular stars were the Goofy Gophers, first seen in *Pests For Guests* (1955).

After several nominations, an Oscar finally came Ross's way for *Birds Anonymous* (1957), starring Tweedle Pie and Sylvester, followed by another for the world's favourite rabbit in *Knighty Knight Bugs* (1958). The last film Ross worked on at Warners was *The Spy Swatter* (1967), in which one other great animation star, Speedy Gonzales, "the fastest mouse in Mexico", ate secret cheese that gave him the strength of 10 cats. He put paid to Sylvester with the immortal motto of all movie heroes, "Us good guys always win!" This was made under a new and more economical production team, and after having worked on some 230 cartoons, Ross felt the time had come for him to retire; so he did.

However, in 1979 he worked once again when his first boss, Walter Lantz, was awarded an Oscar for Special Achievement. He operated the Academy lightbulb so that a giant-sized Woody Woodpecker ran on to the stage to shake his old creator by the hand.

Denis Gifford

Virgil Ross, film animator: born 1908; married (one daughter); died Los Angeles 15 May 1996.



A sense of astonishment and wonder – a physical as well as an intellectual response: Picasso's *Still-life with Mask*, cardboard, metal, wood, string, oil-paint and sand on canvas, 1937, one of Lloyd's wide range of acquisitions for the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Michael Lloyd

With Michael Lloyd's premature death at the age of 45, Australia has lost a great museum curator and the art world a good friend. Lloyd's combination of erudition, energy and enthusiasm, coupled with a natural charm, endeared him instantly to those who met him.

He read History at the University of Melbourne, where he gained the Felix Raab Prize for an outstanding essay, a First in Earlier European History, and a distinction for his thesis "Maxim Gorky and the Russian Revolution". For his MA, at Monash University, he chose as his topic "The Self-portrait in 20th-century Art". In 1978, after graduating, he worked briefly as Assistant Registrar at the National Gallery of Victoria, moving the following year to take up a similar post at the National Gallery of Australia, then under the direction of James Mollison.

Although his time at the National Gallery of Victoria was short, the experience he gained there was to have a vital impact in Canberra. As Assistant Registrar he had to maintain the accession register and arrange packing, transport and insurance of all works of art coming to, or being loaned from the National Gallery. When he moved to Canberra he had to create virtually from scratch the Registrar's department, and the systems of cataloguing and accessioning of acquisitions that he initiated have since become standard practice throughout all the art museums in Australia.

In 1980 he changed roles, being appointed Assistant Curator (Research), which gave him the responsibility for drafting all directorial correspondence re-

lating to the acquisition of international works, with the exception of prints; drafting the Council submissions for the presentation of such works; and having sole responsibility for the presentation of international drawings for acquisition.

These were exciting and tumultuous years at Canberra, leading up to the opening of the National Gallery in 1982, and Lloyd's energy and vision were given full rein. Apart from his largely academic work, he had to deal with every detail of preparing the burgeoning international collection for the opening display, as well as overseeing and installing the Sculpture Garden.

By the time I got to know Michael Lloyd he had become Acting Curator for International Art at the National Gallery, and his responsibilities had expanded to embrace the seeking out and presentation of European and American paintings, drawings, sculpture and decorative arts. The collections in the international galleries do not include furniture, but during the ensuing years Lloyd acquired for the gallery a wide range of objects which help chart the development of 19th- and 20th-century design, including metalwork by Christopher Dresser, a Bakelite candlestick by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and a prototype electric kettle designed and made by William Morris's friend and colleague W.A.S. Benson.

He had frequently asked me to find him a magnificent example of William De Morgan's great, Persian-inspired pottery and, by chance, when we had

just acquired such a piece and I was arranging to have it photographed, he popped his head in at the Fine Art Society. "I am not supposed to be coming to see you," he said. "I am working on a big Surrealist exhibition, but I could not walk down Bond Street without saying hello." Diverting him for a moment from the pursuit of Dada and Surrealism, I told him about the vase and took him up to the office to see it. His response was immediate and typical: he sat down in a chair, literally weak at the knees, and said, "Gee, this is one of the most beautiful pieces I have ever seen."

Whether contemplating the great works by Matisse, Miró, Picasso and Jackson Pollock that he acquired for the gallery, or the more modest and functional creations of Benson and Mackintosh, Lloyd's spontaneous reactions were the same. Sheer infectious enthusiasm; a physical as well as an intellectual response. A rare quality in any human being, and especially rare in a world largely dominated by academe.

He applied this same fastid-



Lloyd: fastidious

iousness to the smallest details of life and friendship; when I was in Australia a few years ago, he selected the hotels I should stay in. In Sydney he chose for me a converted Victorian pub near the harbour, even specifying which room I was to have, selected for its tranquillity, not the view.

Lloyd wrote widely and arranged many exhibitions for the National Gallery; the two most outstanding were probably "Surrealism: revolution by night" (1993) and his latest exhibition, "J.M.W. Turner", the highest show of its kind ever seen in Australia, which opened in Canberra in the middle of March, and has already been seen by over 200,000 people. In the essay, "Being There", which he wrote for the catalogue, he comments on Turner's "enduring astonishment and wonder at the world about him". Despite being aware of the seriousness of his illness (he died of lung cancer), Michael Lloyd never lost his own sense of astonishment and wonder.

Peyton Skipwith

Michael Thomas Lloyd, museum curator: born Melbourne, Australia 16 September 1950; Assistant Registrar 1979, National Gallery of Australia, Assistant Curator (Research) 1980-82, Acting Curator, International Art 1982-85, Curator, European and American Paintings, Sculptures, Drawings and Decorative Art 1987-1990, Senior Curator, International Art 1990-92, Assistant Director (Development and Management of the Collections), 1992-96; married 1971 Jannette Murray (two daughters); died Canberra 19 May 1996.

Barney Wilen

Although most people have never heard of the tenor saxophonist Barney Wilen many of them will have heard him without realising it, for he had a fairly large role in the band Miles Davis led to record the soundtrack of *Ascenseur pour l'Echafaud* ("Lift to the Scaffold").

Subsequently the music became a favourite of television producers everywhere and was used to accompany films with themes as diverse as free-fall parachuting and the banding of oboes. Davis's mournful trumpet was unmistakable and his improvisations unforgettable. The only other horn was Wilen's and as a conse-

quence he had an important part which he took on to perfection. Although his was a subordinate role he made the most of it by the quality of his sound and ideas and it was to be his most famous recording. What was an unknown like Wilen doing in the ranks of a band led by such a superstar? It was a typically odd event in an uneven life which hinged on the fact that his father was an American and his mother French.

Wilen was born in Nice but, when the Second World War loomed in 1939, travelled to the United States with his family. The family returned to France at the end of the war and it was

in Paris that Wilen took up first the alto sax and later the tenor. His playing was notable for the logical flow of his improvisations and his early work showed the influence of Lester Young. His later playing reflected this interest in the work of Sonny Rollins. Wilen became a regular associate of expatriate American musicians in Paris. He made his first recording in 1954 with two of them, the drummer Roy Haynes and the guitarist Jimmy Gourley, and the following year played in the Paris club with the drummer Kenny Clarke, the trombonist Jay Jay Johnson and that ailing musical giant, the pianist Bud Powell.

Wilen recorded with another American pianist, John Lewis, in 1956 and again with the vibraphonist Milt Jackson. For the next two years he worked regularly in the Paris clubs with Fowell. He made the soundtrack, subsequently issued as a best-selling album, with Davis in 1957 and toured France with the trumpeter. In 1959 he joined the Jazz Messengers which Art Blakey was assembling to play the soundtrack of yet another film, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. That same year he was the first non-American to be invited to play at the Newport Jazz Festival in Rhode Island. After a period away from jazz

he appeared with Indian classical players at the Berlin Jazz Festival of 1967, by which time he had abandoned the soft Lester Young-inspired tinges of his playing and had become an exponent of so called "free" jazz. His interest in this waned as the music died, and he left jazz to spend much of the Seventies making anthropological films in Africa. When he began playing again in Paris 10 years later he had retreated to his earlier be-bop style.

Steve Voce

Bernard Jean (Barney) Wilen, tenor saxophonist: born Nice 4 March 1937; died Paris 25 May 1996.

John Haycraft

John Haycraft was an inspiring teacher and *animateur* of people. With his wife, Brita, in 1953 he founded the International House World Organisation, which more than any other single private institution has shaped the evolution of the profession of English language teaching (ELT).

A pioneer, he was an early advocate of the wider context of learning outside the classroom by bringing people together in social and dramatic contexts. For him language learning and teaching were about communication, theatre, and understanding between people.

Haycraft was born in 1926. His early life was spent travelling in Europe with his mother and his brother, Colin (the publisher), following the violent death of his father whilst serving the 5/8 Punjab Regiment in 1929 when he and Colin were both still very young children. Obedient, his mother supported her family on a small army pension and worked as a tennis player. This unconventional early background of travel in France and Italy was to prove a formative influence on John Haycraft. He developed an early interest in other countries, cultures and people. He was educated at Wellington, in Berkshire, where despite his distaste for rigid structures and for anyone who sought to crush individual spirit he early on showed his natural leadership qualities and became head boy.

For just under three years, Haycraft was in the Army, and spent 1947 – the last year of the Raj – in India, an echo of the career of the father he had never known. In 1948 he went up to Oxford to read History, which remained a lifelong interest and culminated in his book *In Search of the French Revolution* (1989).

With no certain plans other than a sense of wanting to write, as has happened to so many who make a career in English language teaching Haycraft came to it almost accidentally. After a postgraduate course at Yale, he was guiding tourists around Toledo and teaching students privately. Following their marriage in 1953, Haycraft and his Swedish wife Brita set off for southern Spain – which he saw as "a dramatic environment" – and started the first International House school, in Córdoba. They spent six years there, teaching and writing, a period he described in his well-received autobiographical book *Babel in Spain* (1963), although the Franco regime received it by declaring him *persona non grata*.

Returning to London in 1959, working collaboratively with his wife, Haycraft developed his two big ideas: raising the standards of the teaching of English through an affiliated network of schools around the world and the practical training of teachers for the classroom. At that time, training for English language teaching, especially of a practical kind, was virtually non-existent. The Haycrafts had the idea of setting up short, intensive teacher-training courses to prepare people to face multi-lingual classes with confidence and skill. They were early exemplars of

the idea of being a reflective practitioner, that is by thinking about and reflecting upon their own work in the classroom they extrapolated the essence of what was effective with foreign learners of English and presented this knowledge and experience on the teacher-training course. This original course became the blueprint for the Royal Society of Arts/Cambridge University Local Examinations Syndicate qualification in the teaching of English as a foreign language to adults.

In a period of almost 35 years, more than 30,000 people have taken this course and have experienced it as one of the most powerful educational experiences of their life. It has been the primary influence on most of the key figures in ELT today; one could even say that Haycraft invented the modern profession of ELT teacher trainer.

Haycraft's second big idea was that standards could most effectively be raised by sending the teachers trained in London to schools around the world which espoused his educational standards and ideals. That first school in Córdoba was the seed of more than 100 international schools in 20 countries, a truly international community that expressed John Haycraft's spirit.



Haycraft: eye for drama

The final flowering of his taste for starting new things and his inclination for moving across boundaries – often in difficult circumstances – was in his collaboration, after his retirement from International House in 1990, with the financier George Soros to establish School for Central and Eastern Europe, a project characteristic of Haycraft's sense of new projects and selfless generosity. John Haycraft was not among those who retired to write.

While so significantly influencing the development of English language teaching, Haycraft pursued a parallel career as a writer, which he regarded as his vocation. His books show the same interest in people, in life for colour and drama in very day-life, the impatience with bureaucracy and with pettiness as he expressed in his International House life.

Tom Duff

John Haycraft, English language educationist and writer: born 11 December 1926; Founder and Director, International House 1964-90, Director General 1975-90; CBE 1982; Director, Soros English Language Programme 1991-94; married 1953 Brita Langenfeld (two sons, one daughter); died London 23 May 1996.

Hailek Grossman, resistance leader and politician, died Kibbutz Evron, Israel 26 May, aged 76. A leader of the Jewish resistance against the Nazis in occupied Poland. Elected to the Israeli parliament in 1968 as a representative of the left-wing Mapam party, which supports the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Sir Kanda Isaacs politician, died Nassau, Bahamas 25 May, aged 70. Former leader of the opposition Free National Movement party in the Bahamas 1972-76 and 1981-87. Solicitor General 1955-63; Attorney General 1963-65.

Massaki Fujita, politician, died Tokyo, Japan 27 May, aged 74. President of the Japanese upper house of Parliament, the House of Councillors, 1986-88.

DEATHS

BULLEY: Michael Anthony Blackburn at home on 15 May. Beloved uncle, cousin and godfather, best of friends. Requiem Mass at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Hills Road, Cambridge, 2.15pm on 31 May. Flowers to the Brian Warner Funeral Service, 4 Haverhill Court, Haverhill Grove, Cambridge, telephone 01223 240258.

CARRITHERS: Ian Douglas, Professor of Agrarian Development at Wye College (London University), on 24 May, after a short illness. Funeral service at Wye Church, 11am, 30 May, followed by cremation at Barbham, 1pm. No flowers; donations to Action's International, 99 Rochester Avenue, London E18 4RE.

HAYCRAFT: John Haycraft, CBE, founder of International House, died suddenly at home, 23 May, aged 69. Beloved husband of Brita and much-loved father of Kaituma, Richard and Jeremy, and loving grandfather of Marina, Benjamin, Barney, Timothy, Bella and Lily, will be sadly missed by family and friends, colleagues and affiliates in the world of ELT. Funeral service will take place at St Michael's Church, Blackheath Park, London SE1, on Thursday 30 May at 4pm. Memorial service to be announced. Flowers to Francis Chappell, 402 High Street, Lewisham, London SE13 2JH.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

SE13: Donations to the British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH, or the International House Ben Warren Trust, 106 Piccadilly, London W1V 9PL.

SILVERTHORNE: Mary Alanna, beloved wife of Paul and mother of Lucy Thorne. Died peacefully in hospital, 23 May 1996. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Gloucestershire, 3pm, 1 June. Flowers to Kenyon's, 74 Rochester Row, London SW1, by 4.30pm Friday.

SUTTON: Ivan James, peacefully at home on 27 May. Devoted husband of the late Dorothy. Adored father of Jennifer, Rosalind and Mark, and very special grandfather of Neil, Hugh, Hilary and Isabel. Funeral service at St Michael's Church, Blackheath Park, London SE1, on Thursday 30 May at 4pm. Memorial service to be announced. Flowers to Francis Chappell, 402 High Street, Lewisham, London SE13 2JH.

Birthdays

Professor John Alderson, former Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall, 74; Miss Carroll Baker, actress, 64; Mr Albert Booth, former government minister, 88; Professor Patrick Boulton, consultant surgeon, 69; Miss Faith Brown, impressionist, 49; Sir Patrick Brown, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 89; Sir Gerald Cash, former Governor-General, the Bahamas, 79; Sir Edward du Cann, former chairman of Lloyds, 72; Mrs Liz Edgar, showjumper, 53; Sir Robert Evans, former chairman, British Gas, 69; Sir Reginald Eyre, solicitor and former MP, 72; Mr Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, baritone, 71; Lord Gould, company director and former chairman, Royal Scottish Orchestra, 62; Dame Thora Hind, actress, 85; Miss Sue Holderness, actress, 47; Mr Norman Ireland, chairman, BTR, 69; Miss Rachel Kempson, actress, 80; Professor George Ligeti, composer, 73; Mr Alan MacIntosh, former chairman, Woolwich Building Society, 71; Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson MP, 67; Mr Patrick Middlemass, actor, 77; Mr Raymond Miguel, former chairman, Scottish Sports Council, 65; Sir Philip

Otto, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 63; Professor Stuart Pigott, archaeologist, 86; Mr Timothy Renton MP, 64; Lord Rippon of Headham QC, former government minister, 72; Dr Charles Sammarz Smith, Director, National Portrait Gallery, 42; Mr Wolfgang Schneiderhan, violinist, 81; Mr Edward Seng, former prime minister of Jamaica, 66; Mr Julian Slade, composer, 66; Mr Richard Van Allan, operatic bass and director, 61; Sir Gordon Wolstenholme, physician, 83.

Anniversaries

Births: Joseph-ignace Guillotin, physician and politician, 1738; William Pitt the Younger, statesman, 1759; Thomas Moore, poet and musician, 1779; William Miller, line engraver, 1796; Joseph Desauer, composer, 1793; Louis Jean Rodolphe Agassiz, naturalist, 1807; Giovanni Sgambati, pianist and composer, 1843; Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, architect and town-planner, 1859; Edward Bernes, statesman, 1884; Ian Lancaster Fleming, author and creator of "James Bond", 1908; the Dionne Quintuplets, Cecile, Yvonne, Annette, Emilie and Marie, 1934. Deaths: Lanfranc, Archbishop

of Canterbury, 1089; Jan van der Meer (Jan Vermeer van Haarlem the Younger), painter, buried 1705; Luigi Boccherini, cellist and composer, 1805; Noah Webster, lexicographer, 1843; Anne Brontë, novelist, 1849; John Russell, first Earl Russell, statesman, 1878; Francis Pritchard, astronomer, 1893; François-Louis Français, painter, 1897; Sir George Grove, engineer and first director of the Royal College of Music, 1900; Walter Satterlee, figure and genre painter, 1908; Sir John Lubbock, first Baron Avebury, banker and author, 1913; Alfred Adler, psychiatrist, 1937; Edward, Duke of Windsor, 1972; Jose Iturbi, pianist and actor, 1980; Eric Morecambe (Eric Bartholomew), comedian, 1984. On this day: Hernando de Soto landed in Florida, 1539; the English defeated the Dutch at the Battle of Southwold Bay, 1672; the Treaty of Bucharest was signed, making peace between Russia and Turkey, 1812; in Rome, Michele Schirru, an American, attempted to shoot Mussolini, but was shot dead himself, 1931; the Zouave became an island lake (as the fjord-lake) after the dyke was built connecting North Holland with Friesland, 1932; Neville Chamberlain be-

came Prime Minister, 1937; the Belgian Army surrendered to the German, 1940; the Battle of Navarik started, 1940; the first London production of the musical show *Gipsy and Dolls* was presented, 1953; the first London production of the musical show *Lock Up Your Daughters* was presented, 1959; the Orient Express train, Paris-Bucharest, ceased running after 78 years, 1961; Francis Chichester arrived home at Plymouth after his round-the-world voyage, 1967. Today is the Feast Day of St. Germainus of Paris, St. Ignatius of Milan and St. William of Gallone.

Lectures

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "May-be (iv): Domenichino, *Landscapes with a Fortified Town*", 1pm. Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "Pictures from the Millennium: John Everett Millais from PRB to PRA", 1pm. RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Sir Richard Rogers, "The Evolving Design Process", 6.30pm. British Museum: Julian Henderson, "Excavations of Harun al-

Rashid's Glass Factory at Raqqa, Syria", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Robin Muir, "Dorian Lecture", 1.10pm. Leicester University: Professor Rosemary Crompton, "Fairwell to Social Class", 5.15pm.

Recorders

The following have been appointed recorders: Wales and Chester: Cressie Jane Crowley; Mark Fennell; Jane Elizabeth Hayward; Stephen Richards. North Eastern Cheshire: Peter David Babb; Peter Edward Bullock; Gary Burdell QC; Timothy Clayton; Timothy Hewitt; James Graham Keith; Hilary; Simon Jack; C.R. Kealy; Christopher Kane; Keith Stuart Hunter; Miller; James Ronald Mitchell; Henry Wilson; Prosser; Martin William Rodland.

Wills

Mr Paul Clark-Eddington, of London SE1. Paul Eddington, the actor, left estate valued at £237,715 net. Mr Giles William Playfair, of London W4, the stage historian, left estate valued at £216,077 net. Mr Reginald Harold Blofeld, of Chesham, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £4,310,435 net.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman, International Trustees, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, are President, World Wide Fund for Nature – WWF International, the Geneva, Bern and Zurich, Switzerland. The Princess Royal, Patron, Victim Support Scotland, visits the Aberdeen Victim Support Scheme, Aberdeen, visits BPD Davidson, Mugleness Mills, River Don, Aberdeen; and as Patron, Scottish Institute of Sports Medicine and Sports Science, attend the Second Meeting of the Advisory Council of the Institute Aberdeen University.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Irish Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, and provided by the Welsh Guards.

Announcements for Gazette: WILLS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Bris, Adop, News, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Weddings, Anniversaries, 1st Memorials) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 0171-230111 (24-hour answering machine, 0171-230 2811 or faxed to 0171-293 2018, and/or charged at £4.50 a line (VAT extra).

مكتبة الامير

the leader page

Why backing good guys is a risky business

Wouldn't it be nice if the candidates in foreign elections divided neatly into goodies and baddies? Watching the democratic elections in Israel this week and Russia next month we could cheer loudly for our heroes, and hiss their evil opponents. If, after the event, the good guys turned out not to be so marvellous after all, we could shrug our shoulders. The contest would be simple, the drama entertaining, and we would remain safe in the knowledge that the views of a few Brits were irrelevant to the outcome anyway.

The Americans can't duck their responsibility so easily. For all their ambivalence they remain unrivalled international peace-keepers. While it is easy to be cynical about the agenda behind its foreign policy, America's support for liberal democracy in Russia and peace in the Middle East has been genuine enough. However, its approach to the forthcoming elections in both countries may prove mistaken. In both cases, the US seems surprisingly keen to identify good guys and back them to the hilt, no matter what the long-term risks to Western interests.

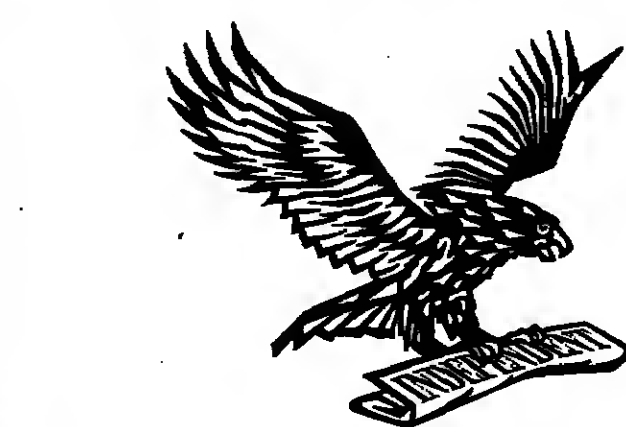
In Russia our hero is cuddly Boris. Yes, he drinks, yes, his health is dodgy, yes, he tolerates corruption and cronyism, and his commitment to democracy is suspect. Still, Yeltsin's economic reforms have been brave and far-reaching, and may be about to pay off. Russia

is now a relatively liberal country, at peace with its seceded neighbours.

By contrast, his leading opponent - the Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov - is a scary prospect. With a nasty anti-Semitism never far from the surface, many of Zyuganov's fellow travellers stray often into the language of Russian expansionism and neo-nationalism. Little wonder then that the presidents of former Soviet states (including Georgia's Eduard Shevardnadze) have been so quick and so keen to endorse Boris Yeltsin.

It is no surprise either that the US and the EU should be hoping for a Yeltsin re-election, given the repercussions throughout Nato and Eastern Europe if Zyuganov were to win. Thanks to US support, Russia has benefited in the past few months from an IMF loan worth \$10.2bn and the rescheduling of Russian debt. Clinton's personal appearance at international conferences will have promoted Yeltsin's image as an international statesman. Meanwhile, the US has refrained from exacerbating Yeltsin's domestic political troubles over the disastrous Chechen war.

But there are risks in this strategy. For a start, Zyuganov might still win - leaving Western diplomacy badly wrong-footed. The volatile opinion polls are still close. But even if Yeltsin wins, the West will have tolerated and endorsed an awful lot of Russian boot stamping to make it happen. To win back those float-



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ing voters, Yeltsin has expelled British spies, promised huge welfare handouts he cannot finance, and even - it is rumoured - contemplated secret compromises with the neo-nationalists. Yesterday's declaration of a ceasefire in Chechnya should not detract from the appalling violence and disregard for human rights in the Russian campaign. For the sake of future relations with Russia, the US needs to be wary of giving Yeltsin the idea that it will give and tolerate anything to keep him in power.

Unfortunately the same pattern is emerging in the US approach to the Israeli elections. The hero in Israel -

the former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin - has already been shot. His Labour party colleague, and architect of the Middle East peace process, Shimon Peres, has inherited the mantle of US support, as well as the country's interim leadership. But the vehemence of the American endorsement may also prove to have been a mistake.

Compared with his main opponent Mr Netanyahu, Mr Peres is the good guy. Peres remains committed to the Oslo accord, allowing gradual self-rule for the Palestinians and providing the best chance for peace in the Middle East for years. Were the hard-line Mr

Netanyahu and his Likud party to be elected (polls suggest this is possible) the Oslo accord would rapidly collapse, and with it Yasser Arafat's credibility with his people, having stuck his neck out for the accord. Bleak prospects.

Hence the wholehearted support from the US for Israel under Peres. Recent bus-bombings by Palestinian extremists ignited Israeli fears for their security and rocked Peres's support. So when, to bolster his domestic political position, Peres launched attacks on southern Lebanon and bombed innocent civilians in Qana, the US did not bat an eyelid.

Not only was the US endorsing atrocities, it was also undermining the long-term prospects for peace in the Middle East. True, Oslo may collapse if Peres is not elected, but at this rate it will also collapse if he is. The bombing alienated Palestinians who were otherwise prepared to negotiate, and removed any possibility for the US to play the "honest broker" role in further negotiations.

In the Russian and the Israeli elections, the West is right to hope for the victory of particular candidates. But the US should beware elevating its preferred candidate to the good guy who (at least up until the election) can do no wrong.

Such short-termism in US foreign policy has a whiff of domestic electioneering about it, too. Regardless of long-term prospects for peace and stability Bill Clinton is most concerned to prevent a return to Communism in

Russia and the collapse of the Oslo accord before November's US presidential elections. A high-profile foreign policy failure would band ammunition to the Republicans.

Ultimately in the US, in Israel and in Russia, politicians good and bad are all dancing in anticipation of the wishes of their electorates. And as we may yet discover in Britain to our cost, governments desperate to stay in power are easily tempted to manipulate the more unpleasant sentiments and anxieties among their voters. Such are the perils and privileges of democracy.

Formula for fiasco

Just when you thought the Government had learnt its lesson over providing the public with information about food, it screws up all over again.

This time we know that nine leading brands of formula milk contain levels of phthalates about the "Tolerable Daily Intake". We know that the same levels of the chemical damaged the testicles of rats. Yet the Government expects us not to worry.

The worst insult is that the Government will not even tell us which brands are involved. It's a wonder Douglas Hogg hasn't borrowed a baby to force feed with formula milk for the cameras just to prove his point.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fundholding: bureaucratic and expensive

Sir: The Audit Commission's report on GP fundholding ("Price of reforms outweighs results", 22 May) offers an opportunity to consider wider issues of how GPs should be involved in reviewing and planning the services available to their patients. GPs are in a pivotal position in the health service and are a major factor in its cost-effectiveness. Their understanding of how services match up to patients' needs is a powerful way to shape improvements.

GP fundholding is the only mechanism which the Government has supported for mobilising this force for change. It is unpopular because it requires general practices to set up as independent purchasers in a competitive market system. It is seen by many as bureaucratic, divisive, and expensive. It is unsurprising that many GPs have entered the scheme reluctantly and seem not to be achieving as much as might have been hoped for.

GP commissioning by contrast is a grass roots response by GPs to the possibilities of the purchaser-provider divide in the NHS. It is not the invention of a political party although Labour has seen its merits and selected it as its own approach. GP commissioning groups are representative groups of GPs who work with their health authority to plan, provide, and monitor services. The purchasing function is discharged by the health authority leaving GPs free to play to their traditional strengths and training.

GP commissioning, despite a lack of any Government support of funding, has established itself as an effective mechanism.

Dr WILLIAM A WARIN
Bristol

Sir: In the wake of the Audit Commission's Report on GP fundholding, how can the Health Secretary justify the continued expenditure of in excess of £100m per annum on the administrative costs alone of this unproven scheme? By comparison the closure of a teaching hospital like St Bartholomew's will save the Government a meagre £6m per annum.

It is indefensible that he refuses to resource statutory or support the development of GP commissioning which has the potential to match, if not exceed, the purported benefits of fundholding at a fraction of the management costs. The Government has a duty to use the public purse for maximum direct patient care, rather than divert scant resources to administer bureaucratic political ideology.

Dr CHAAND NAGAPPA
Honeywell Medical Centre
Surrey, Middlesex

Sir: Our practice, the Highcliffe Medical Centre, which has the highest percentage of elderly patients in the country, and which consequently is perennially underfunded, went fundholding in 1993.

Since that time our patients, many of whom find travelling to hospital difficult, have been able to attend NHS physiotherapy, chiropody, dermatology, ultrasound testing, prostate screening, counselling, psychology support, and phlebology all at the practice. To this is shortly to be added audiology testing.



'I bet I cost my parents more than you cost your parents'

In addition they have a fully empowered Patient Participation Group closely involved in the strategic planning of practice development.

This year our total budget is likely to be overspent by a few thousand pounds. No doubt the Audit Commission would regard our experiment a failure. We doubt whether those patients who have benefited from the convenience of these services would agree.

Dr R C GILBERTSON
Highcliffe Medical Centre
Christchurch, Dorset

Energy tax under discussion

Sir: Your otherwise excellent report (20 May) on the European Union's certain failure to meet the greenhouse gas emission targets for 2000, which it set itself in Rio, makes the assertion that the European Commission proposal for a CO₂ energy tax has been stalemated "largely because of fierce opposition from Britain".

As parliamentary rapporteur on the CO₂ tax, I can assure you that the revised Commission proposal for a flexible and optional CO₂ energy tax is alive and still under discussion. This directive echoes the approach being taken on a single currency.

Within an agreed structure designed to protect the integrity of the Single Market, those member states who wish could proceed with a CO₂ energy tax, with other states joining as they become convinced of the utility of such a tax.

The villain in the story of the attempted stalemate of the CO₂ energy tax is not the British Government, but the concerted, well-financed international campaign mounted by the fossil fuel industries, led by the oil industry. When in 2010, the world's public wants to know why the political system has been so slow in putting in place measures to inhibit climate disruption, their attention will rightly focus on the role of the oil companies.

TOM SPENCER, MEP
(Surrey, Con)
Churt, Surrey

British Council acts as conduit

Sir: Your leader on cultural diplomacy (21 May) proposed that the British Council, or "some new organisation" should be strengthened in its role as cultural ambassador, with the definition of culture being as broadly defined as possible. The problem is that the path down which the British Council is being directed is taking it steadily in the opposite direction.

The Government has concluded that the council should exploit the commercial potential presented by its worldwide network of offices. The council competes with the likes of Save the Children Fund to run health contracts, with major accounting firms to run management training courses, with universities and companies like this one to manage education

contracts. In doing so it inevitably and increasingly undermines its capacity to act as disinterested and imaginative promoter of those with whom it competes.

You are right to say that there are no reliable cost-benefit equations in cultural diplomacy. But the value of the council's services can and should be subjected to performance measures. Of course, with the unmatchable advantages of over 100 publicly subsidised offices round the world the British Council generates income for itself and for Britain. But the council's explicit belief that the best way of maximising such income for this country is by means of a state-funded bureaucracy acting as the conduit through which all good things flow remains an entirely untested proposition.

The British Council is immensely well known around the world and it may well be that it provides the right corporate identity within which your positive vision for the promotion of British culture can be developed. Your proposal for a thorough review of how we make the most of our immense cultural capital is an essential prerequisite.

Incremental cuts leading to further commercialisation simply undermine what is best about the council without encouraging thorough reappraisal of its role and future.

NEIL MCINTOSH
Chief Executive
CFBT Education Services
Reading

Sovereignty of the people

Sir: Warwick Cairns (Letters, 25 May) challenges us European federalists to come clean on the merits of a "federal super state" and disprove Tony Benn's claim that British entry into the EU was a denial of popular sovereignty.

In a genuine democracy sovereignty belongs to the people who, in a federation, at elections lend different aspects of it to be exercised on their behalf by their representatives at local, regional and national levels of government. Since the creation of the EU, part of that sovereignty of the people is also exercised on their behalf by their elected representatives in the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. Thus entry into the EU has not resulted in any loss of popular sovereignty.

Furthermore the federalist "principle of subsidiarity" lays down that decisions should be taken as close to citizens as possible and that decisions at European level must be confined to those that cannot be effectively exercised at lower levels of government independently. The responsibilities of European institutions are strictly limited to those that have been transferred to them by common and unanimous agreement of its member states. To claim that federalists want a centralised European superstate is thus a contradiction in terms.

ERNEST WISTRICH
London NW3

Hallmark of a civilised society

Sir: Jonathan Glancey in his article on the London-based Royal Fine Art Commission ("The Byzantine oddity in stylish world of its own", 22 May) appears to suggest there may be someone, somewhere, who sees it as "a fascinating oddity, an exquisite and maverick survivor".

Far from being "one of the last surviving outposts of the Byzantine Empire" the Royal Fine Art Commission was modelled on the President's Commission of Fine Arts, based in Washington DC, which had been established 14 years earlier in 1910.

Other countries have their equivalents, not always "Beaux Arts", and seldom Royal, but essentially comparable in their objectives and methods in advising the relevant authorities. It is a hallmark of a civilised community which cares about the quality of its built environment.

Mr Glancey should note that the London-based Commission does not have "a brief to criticise new building schemes throughout Britain". Though the Commission for Scotland's Royal Warrant has similar terms of reference, it is a separate, independent body, and has developed different working methods.

It no more deserves the description "a curious anachronism" than does the London-based Commission.

CHARLES PROSSER
Secretary
Royal Fine Art
Commission for Scotland
Edinburgh

For the love of South Africa

Sir: Most of the people shown in the photographs taken by Ian Berry in South Africa during the years of apartheid are now unknown ("Living apart", 18 May). However, your readers may be interested to know what happened to Anthony Barker who, together with his wife Maggie, was a doctor at the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital, Nqutu, for 30 years.

Towards the end of their time at Nqutu, Anthony was offered a university post in community medicine but the South African government blocked the appointment, so the Barkers returned to England where they made the accident and emergency department at St George's Hospital, London, a showpiece of its kind.

When they retired, they returned to South Africa to share their skills in the accident department in Alexandra township. In all of this they did everything together, symbolised best by their beloved tandem: Anthony steering, Maggie pedalling, both equally involved. Tragically, they were both killed on their 50th wedding anniversary while cycling on their tandem in the Lake District in August 1993.

They were a remarkable couple with very many interests but predominant among these were health and a great love of the people of South Africa.

They believed in empowering people by enabling them to meet others, across the boundaries of culture, race, politics or religion. Anthony often quoted the Zulu saying "Umntu ungUmntu ngabantu" - "A person is a person because of people".

CAROLYN MOWBRAY
ALISON HARVEY
Barker Memorial Trust
London W13

Poignancy of 'Frankenstein'

Sir: Gavin Griffiths does not do justice to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (Books, 25 May).

He unaccountably refers to the book's "casualness" and says it contains "too many ideas", without even making clear what they are.

Frankenstein is about intellectual hubris, the fatal effects of extreme social and psychological deprivation, and also the perennial bio-philosophical debate about the origins of life and its consequences, then being fought out under the rubrics of materialism and vitalism.

Far from being casually written, the novel is so skilfully composed that it comfortably carries all these ideas, which do not prevent it from working as a successful suspense-and-horror story. *Frankenstein* also has the poignancy and ability to move of an adult *Beauty and the Beast*, albeit with an unhappy ending.

NICHOLAS JACOBS
London NW5

Tallow talk

Sir: I am sure Donald McFarlan (Letters, 23 May) will have experience of what is probably the major use of tallow. This is: tallow and caustic soda, via saponification, gives soap and glycerol.

MIKE TONGUE
Newark, Nottinghamshire

essay

Science is selling us out

The law of gravity belongs to all but our DNA codes are becoming private property. The change is profound, argues Tom Wilkie. Science is becoming a commercial, not a social enterprise

One of my heroes has just shown that he has feet of clay. Peter Goodfellow, the brilliant and youthful professor of genetics at Cambridge University, is the man who, a few years ago, discovered the gene for gender. In a fantastic piece of scientific research, he isolated and identified the short stretch of human DNA that contains the genetic "switch" telling a developing embryo that it should become a boy rather than a girl.

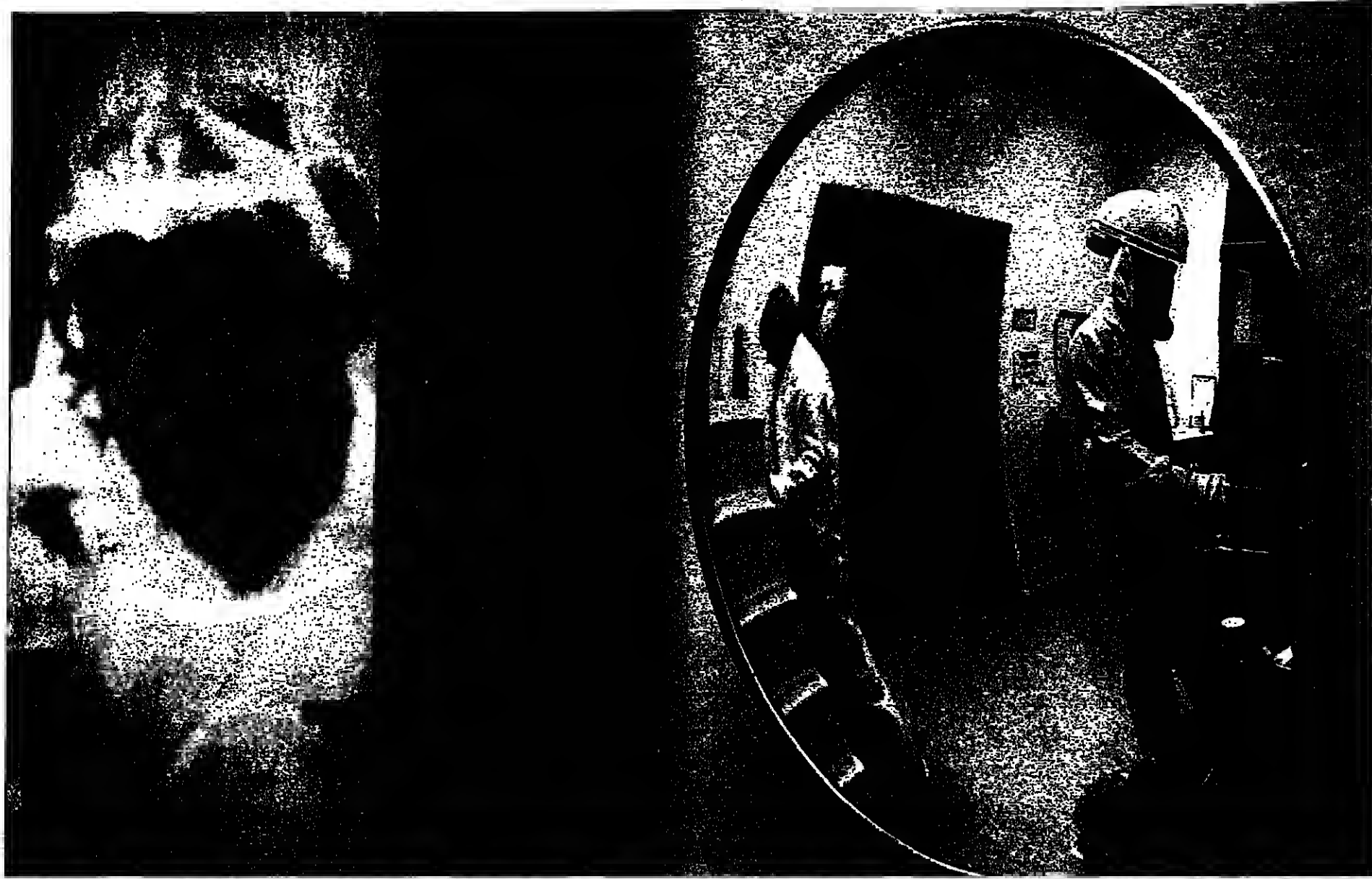
Together with Robin Lovell Budge at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, Professor Goodfellow took the equivalent gene isolated from mice and rewrote the genetic instructions of a mouse embryo. The mouse, which had been conceived as a female, was born with all the impediments of a male – indeed, it was a male.

Perhaps because I am a man, I have always found that particular piece of genetics awesome. Around the world, thousands of scientists are at work deciphering the mysteries of human DNA and discovering new genes at the rate of about one a week. But, somehow, the essence of masculinity reduced to a stretch of DNA seems to me profoundly humbling while the fact that we can know this fact about ourselves at all is profoundly inspiring – a scientific fulfilment of the Socratic injunction, "know thyself".

Professor Goodfellow is a man I admire because he has expanded and enriched my perception and understanding of myself and of the world in which I live. And I am old-fashioned enough to believe that knowledge is preferable to ignorance and that understanding is good in itself. But at the beginning of July, Professor Goodfellow leaves Cambridge to work for SmithKline Beecham, the multinational pharmaceutical company, and the fruits of his fertile brain will become the private intellectual property of a commercial company.

I was brought up in the post-war faith that science was both the disinterested pursuit of knowledge and also an extraordinarily powerful motor for innovation and the betterment of humanity. The title of an essay by the late Sir Peter Medawar, a British Nobel prizewinner – that science offered "The hope of progress" – captured perfectly the mood of the times, that change was change for the better.

The idea of science as a moral rather than a commercial enterprise was codified as long ago as 1947, by the sociologist Robert K Merton. In his essay "The normative structure of science", he set out the moral and social values that had to govern scientific endeavour. It is the adherence of scientists to these norms that permits us to



The lab trap: acquiring scientific knowledge is costly, so companies want to keep it to themselves. But doing so leaves science and society impoverished

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

appeal to science as an "objective" body of knowledge. To this day they are known as the "Mertonian norms".

Commonality – scientific knowledge is public knowledge because, in part, it is performed collaboratively as a social enterprise by the scientific community; **Universality** – scientific advance should be objective and impersonal. An individual scientist's race, nationality, class or personal characteristics are irrelevant to the science he or she does; **Disinterestedness** – scientists should be motivated by the search for truth, not biased by the thought of personal or financial advancement; **Originality** – science makes progress because researchers enjoy the academic freedom to choose for themselves their research problems and techniques; **Scepticism** – scientific claims must be subjected to scrutiny

out in the open by a process of public verification. But Medawar's hope of progress has withered and, with it, the idea that science can be pursued for its own sake. The Mertonian norms were as much prescriptive as descriptive and the old values are changing. The accountants have been let

science at which he is so good. In explaining his decision to go, Professor Goodfellow commented that even at Cambridge, "it has been a strain to maintain the infrastructure needed to carry out internationally competitive research, and the financial constraints have been getting worse."

Ample corroboration for his view was provided last week, when the Government published the figures for its spending on science and technology. Ten years ago, the Government spent £6.5bn on all aspects of research and development. In 1995, its *Forward Look* at government-funded science engineering and technology envisages that only £4.9bn will be spent – £1.6bn a year less. All the figures are in 1994 currency, so this is a decrease of a quarter in "real terms". Roughly £31m more was spent on research and development every week of the year by Mr Thatcher's government of 1985 compared with what Mr Major will spend if he wins the next election.

At the press conference to publish the *Forward Look*, Ian Taylor, the minister for science, disputed the importance of absolute figures. Government expenditure is under pressure across all departments, he pointed out, so one should look at the relative position of science. It is a fair point, but unfortunately for Mr Taylor, the figures reveal that whereas civil science used to occupy about 2.45 per cent of government spending in 1986, it now gets a meagre 1.99 per cent – a drop of about one-fifth.

Many scientists are hanging in, and science must now pay its way. Neither morals nor Mertonian norms are the priority of the market. The reason for Professor Goodfellow's move is simple: money. Not so much personal enrichment, but the basic wherewithal to continue the

on, in the Micawberish hope that something – presumably a Labour government – will turn up. In this analysis, the past 17 years have been some sort of dreadful aberration; once the government has changed, normal conditions will be restored and public funds for science will start to flow.

But it is a misreading of history to believe that problems for the scientific enterprise in Britain began with Mrs Thatcher's government. It was, after all, Shirley Williams, secretary of state for education and science in the last Labour government, who penned a piece in the *Times* that started with the ominous phrase: "For the scientists, the party is over."

Although the cuts began with Mr Callaghan, Mrs Thatcher's government did have a philosophical problem fitting science into the marketplace. Traditionally, much of what is produced in research laboratories is public knowledge – one cannot, for example, patent the law of gravity. Science is a "public good" not only in the sense of something morally worthwhile but also in the sense of being public property. However, modern science is expensive; it may be a public good but it is not a free good. It thus makes no sense for a commercial company to spend its shareholders' money in acquiring basic scientific knowledge when what comes out will be public knowledge that will benefit other companies that have not paid the cost of producing the knowledge.

In a recent issue of the scientific journal *Nature*, Eugene Wong of the Hong Kong Uni-

versity of Science and Technology pointed out that the entire modern electronics industry depends at a fundamental level on applied quantum mechanics. "But even with the benefit of hindsight," he writes, "quantum mechanics would not have been a good private investment, because no one company could

have appropriated quantum mechanics as its own shareholders' intellectual property. In the face of this conflict with their ideology, Conservative governments since 1979 have vacillated. At one time, science was to be made ever closer to industry. Kenneth Baker, when he was secretary of state for education and science, recommended that scientists should get to know the delights of the business lunch.

Then the emphasis changed as the Lawson boom took off: industry, freed from the corporatist shackles of the 1970s, was now profitable again and so able to pay for "near market" research itself, whereas it was the proper role of government to fund the basic research that could not be captured as private property. In the face of a second recession, the emphasis switched back again with the publication of the 1993 White Paper *Realising our Potential* which focused on sci-

ence for "wealth creation". Here is where a profound change is taking place in the nature of science itself. The boundary of what is science for the public good and science as the commercial property of a private company is changing. SmithKline Beecham, for example, has a major share in a privately held database of human gene sequences compiled by two American organisations: Human Genome Sciences and the Institute for Genomic Research in Maryland. To adopt a phrase from a different area of discourse these sequences are "the common heritage of mankind" and would once have been regarded as basic scientific knowledge – a public good. But with the advent of modern information processing techniques, a company can score commercial advantage by being able to compare a DNA sequence published in the open scientific literature with those that it holds on its confidential database. Given the drought of public funds for research, SmithKline Beecham's commercial policy becomes attractive to those who want to do basic scientific research. Seen in this context, Professor Goodfellow's departure from academe is a reasonable move for a brilliant scientist.

Analysis of the main journals, carried out by the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, shows that academic institutions now play a much diminished role in the production of scientific knowledge, while a growing proportion of the authors of scientific papers are employees of commercial

companies. John Ziman has also charted this change in a lecture to the Royal Society and in his book, *Of One Mind: The Commercialisation of Science*.

Given Britain's dismal record of transforming its scientific discoveries into innovative products that can be sold for profit in the marketplace, surely this trend is something to welcome, not to worry about? The short answer is that, even allowing for the recent spectacular stock market investments in start-up biotechnology companies such as British Biotech, there is precious little evidence either that established British companies are investing in research and development or that financial conditions are right to call forth a British flowering of start-up biotechnology companies.

The world's top 200 companies spent 4.7 per cent of sales revenue on research and development in 1995, whereas the top 12 UK companies (which are included in the world top 200) spent a mere 2.6 per cent of sales on research and development. As a proportion of the UK's national wealth – GDP – British industry was spending less on research and development in 1994 than it had been in 1981.

The larger problem is that we might lose the old objectivity of science for no compensating gain. In January 1995, for example, the journal *Addiction* carried an editorial discussing concerns about commercial pressures on the reporting of research results. These pressures were being exerted by, among others, the alcohol and tobacco industries anxious to downplay data that might adversely affect sales of their products.

Such concerns are particularly acute regarding research about addiction, but the journal also highlighted issues of common concern across science: fraudulent data; plagiarism; double publication of the same piece of work; and "honorary authorship", where people are placed on the list of authors even though they have made no genuine contribution to the work being reported. Further indicators that the power of the old norms is diminishing are the recent appearance of several cases not of error, but of outright scientific fraud.

Commercial "pressure" on basic science is not confined to Britain. It is best described in, of all places, Michael Crichton's introduction to his book *Jurassic Park*: "The commercialisation of molecular biology is the most stunning ethical event in the history of science and it has happened with astonishing speed. For 400 years since Galileo, science has always proceeded as a free and open inquiry into the workings of nature." Crichton notes that when Watson and Crick discovered the double helix structure of DNA in 1953, "it was confidently expected that their discovery would be selflessly extended to the greater benefit of all mankind. Yet that did not happen." Instead, research scientists in molecular biology became entrepreneurs setting up biotechnology companies: "Suddenly it seemed as if everyone wanted to become rich."

Crichton is right to be concerned. With the loss of our adherence to the Mertonian norms, we may be in danger of shutting down the motors that have driven Western scientific inquiry, and its consequent moral and material development, since the dawn of the Enlightenment.

Science was seen as a motor for the betterment of humanity

It makes no sense for a firm to buy knowledge that will be made public

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The stars aren't as bright in London

When you live a hundred or more miles outside London, as I do, there are several things you learn to live without and one of them is Carlton Television. Many of my London friends make jokes about Carlton TV and roar with laughter, and I can't do the same because, like Jazzy FM, the *Evening Standard* and the M25, it doesn't get this far out of London, and I haven't the faintest idea what they are talking or laughing about.

Well, I have now seen a Carlton TV programme called the *Clive James Show*, which went out on HTV the other night, and now I think I know what they are talking about.

I remember Clive James from my London days. He was a twinkly Australian with little hair who couldn't make up his mind whether he wanted to be remembered as a serious writer, as a TV personality or as a savage TV critic who made fun of bad TV. I haven't seen him for years, but it seems from the

Clive James Show that he has opted for two of these three careers; he has become a TV personality who goes on TV to make fun of other TV programmes. But that isn't what intrigued me about the programme; what enthralled me and kept me watching to the very end was the discovery that Clive James and Carlton TV have made the breakthrough that was threatening to come so long: the extension of the pre-programme monologue into the whole programme.

Let me explain. It has become the custom for people who run TV shows to do a stand-up act before the show starts, almost as if they know that when the show proper starts, the guests will get the limelight. So the host gives himself a pre-show routine, often written by someone else, and almost invariably unfunny.

On *Loose Ends* on Radio 4, for instance, Neil Sherrin lets no one talk until he has done his news-of-the-week and funny-mystery-noise mono-



Miles Kingston

logue. Clive Anderson does the same, except for the funny noise, on *Clive Anderson Talks Back*, and Angus Deayton does it with captions to photos on *Have I Got News for You?*

It is unforgivable but understandable, and I can see the psychological reason for it. If you give the host a chance to have his own spot early on, he won't interrupt so much later and hog the limelight.

But the *Clive James Show* was different. It started with the opening monologue in which Clive James says funny things about the week's news, or at least says things about the week's funny news. It then continued this monologue by

other means for the whole programme. The first guest, Bob Monkhouse, was not interviewed at all but given piles of newspapers and asked to make spontaneous, premeditated jokes about the week's news.

We were shown several mildly silly American TV commercials for dieting, hair replacement and stress relief, of which Clive James unwisely made fun by putting on the products advertised (wig, massage glove, etc.).

We were shown an extract from a Hungarian TV fairy tale, in a not very good English language version, about which Clive James said things we were supposed to think funny and we were forced to watch an embarrassing interview with an ageing *M45-H* star whom Clive James had once fancied, which we were supposed to think interesting.

And then Stephen Fry came on. This was the reason I had switched on in the first place. Fry is a bright and funny bloke, and I thought he

might say some bright and funny things. I hadn't reckoned with Clive James. Clive James proceeded to do something I have never seen on TV before. He interviewed Stephen Fry by asking him what he thought of the rest of the programme so far. He asked him what he thought of the American commercials. He asked him what he thought of the Hungarian TV extract. He even asked him what he thought of the interview with the forgotten *M45-H* star.

Stephen Fry is a bright and funny bloke, but faced with interview questions at this level he found it hard either to keep smiling or to conceal that he thought it was all a load of manure.

Well, now I have seen a Carlton TV programme, and I have seen something else I never thought to see: bad television being made fun of on a show which is worse than anything being pilloried. Maybe there is something to be said for living way outside London after all.

مسألة من الأهل

the commentators

Does machismo face death in the bullring?

Cristina Sanchez, who killed her first bull as a fully fledged matador last Saturday, is the first woman in Europe to storm the macho world of bullfighting at this level. It is a historic achievement in the ultimate male-dominated redoubt of a culture that invented the word *machismo*.

Breaking the last taboo, she cocks a snook at Ernest Hemingway, who celebrated this Spanish rite as the quintessence of a man's destiny to confront and overcome his fear of death. The extent of Sanchez's achievement – the bullfighting equivalent of taking silk or being awarded a doctorate – may be judged by the fact that even for a man, becoming a matador is an almost unattainable dream. In the words of the greatest matador of all, Dominguín, who died earlier this month, for every 10,000 who try, only one makes it.

There have long been female bullfighters, but only four other women since the 1930s have earned the right to graduate from fighting young novillos to facing the older, bigger and much more dangerous adult toros. The first, and most famous, was Juanita Cruz, born in Madrid in 1917, who fought as a novice in the 1930s. But Francisco Franco banned female matadors from fighting on Spanish soil after he came to power in 1939 – though he did allow women to become *rejoneadoras*, bullfighters on horseback – so she qualified and made her career in South America.

The others were the Colombian Bertha Trujillo, who qualified in 1968 and became an instructor in Cali bullfighting school, and the Mexican Raquel Martínez, who married an American policeman and has a son who wants to be a bullfighter. The only other Spaniard is Mariel Atienza. Born in Albacete in 1959, she originally wanted to be a nun, but she too qualified in South America.

A woman matador has to face far greater dangers than the bull. She has to face the Spanish male, says Elizabeth Nash

Sanchez's achievement is also a victory for Spanish feminism. Forget women space navigators, if a woman can become a matador, there is nothing she cannot do. It is all the more remarkable considering that the Spanish feminist movement is only 20 years old. Until Franco died in 1975, a woman in Spain could not even open her own bank account, or travel any distance without her husband's permission. Juridically, she was a man's property.

In January 1976, 2,000 women demonstrated for the first time, under a banner saying "Women! Fight for your liberation". As they marched down Goya Street in Madrid's most conservative area, some passers-by shouted "Putas!" (whores!), but many of the men applauded them as they went past. The demonstrators must have known, and many of the men watching them may have guessed, that they were heading for a police baton charge.

There is nothing more likely to arouse admiration from a Spanish man than a display of courage. Hemingway was right about this. Women's achievements over the past 20 years in Spain probably owe more to winning men's respect for their bravery than appealing to their sense of solidarity.

The divided reaction on Goya Street 20 years ago is a fair summary of that dished out to Sanchez. And



Sanchez in the ring: breaking the last taboo by becoming the first woman in Europe to bullfight as a fully fledged matador. Photograph: AFP

it matches the male response to any Spanish woman who has fought to throw off the subjugation of 20 years ago.

Today, the new Spanish conservative government has four female ministers, one more than its Socialist predecessor. Also, the head of the Spanish state broadcasting com-

pany, the equivalent of John Birt, is a cool and competent woman of 33. Many in the bullfighting world are furious at Sanchez's achievement, regarding a female bullfighter as simply a contradiction in terms.

Jesús de Utrique, one of the current crop of strutting bullfighting superstars, says he will not appear on

the same bill as Sanchez. This from the man who mounts special performances for women-only audiences.

Another prominent bullfighter, José Luis, once said he was totally opposed to women entering the ring "because a woman is subtle and the bull is crude". Anyway, he added, a man when he faces the bull

faces death and has to be on top form. How could a woman face a bull if she were having her period?

All the greater cause for admiration, one might think. The bullfighting spectacle – one doesn't say "sport" here, where *corridos* are reported on the culture pages of the newspapers – has a pro-

foundly sexual impact, and this is conventionally appropriated as a male sexuality. The sight of a young, tightly clad and bequeathed person conducting themselves with elegance and bravery in the face of death exerts an erotic grip upon enthusiasts.

Gerald Brennan observed this in his classic *South from Granada*: "A mysterious change comes over Spaniards in the presence of death ... as if their own death instincts had been unloosed and given vicarious satisfaction. It is not sadism or love of cruelty, but a sort of fascinated absorption of what they regarded as the culminating moment of existence. They unite themselves to it, as the voyeur may do to the spectacle of another person's orgasm."

Among the many theories of what the bullfight symbolises is one in which the matador enters the ring in the role of the woman, flirting with the bull, distracting it, confusing it with his dazzling appearance and not a little cruelty. Then, the theory goes, when the bull is befuddled and subdued, the fighter assumes the man's role, exerts his powers of domination, absorbs the once-dominant qualities of the victim to conquer the fear of death by the final sword thrust, the penetration. How, the purists protest, could a woman do this?

The proof, they say, lies in the fact that Sanchez, however accomplished, does not kill well. Only a man has the killer instinct.

Nine the less, Sanchez is now treated seriously, which in Spain is to say that they treat her as if she were a man. But there are still lapses. Yesterday a radio interviewer asked her if she expected to marry a bullfighter. At which she paused, then answered icily that she had no idea.

Her bluntness may be ill-disputed for a bullfighter – as one journalist crassly remarked some years ago – but she has *cojones*, and in Spain having balls is what counts.

The interests of the political élite and the voters are converging on an agenda for change. Britain's bureaucrats may be a good place to start

Two nations, one language: reform

Few political images have worked so well, or lasted as long, as Disraeli's "two nations" conceit. It may have been a crude and literary version of the rhetoric developed by socialists. But there was something about the Tory radical's language that dug deep into Britain's political imagination.

There the old phoney glitters still. The past few days have powerfully vindicated those famous lines scribbled down in *Sybil* more than 150 years ago: "Two nations between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones or inhabitants of different planets..."

Disraeli was speaking of "the rich and the poor" but that short passage describes a division in the political debate in 1996. At one end, there is a great and growing row about Conservative Party funding. Below that bubbling lava-pool of acrid revelations swirls a hot argument about political reform which is of absorbing interest to many politicians, journalists and campaigners.

But there is another political zone or planet which has seemed entirely separate. It is all about cash and jobs. It is interested in the size of the pre-election boom which is coming.

It is interested in the state pension, in real wages, house prices and – of course – taxes. It is the politics of Budget and cheque-book and little more.

Many politicians will say that this second zone of politics is the only real one. Among Tory MPs and many senior Labour ones, too, there

There is a belief that grown-up politics is about economic growth

is still a basic belief that grown-up politics is about economic growth, and that everything else is inessential.

On this bluff and brutal reading, everything else is relegated to the second division – the Government's response to the Scott report, or the Nolan report; the possibility of a referendum on Europe or voting reform; Scottish devolution; the Conservative Party's propensity to fund-raise among dubious foreigners; the struggle between Michael Howard and the judiciary. It's just intellectual entertainment, metropolitan blather. It's just stuff for...

Well, who? The most compelling description is still Alan Watkins's dismissive coinage, "the chattering classes". That

would, I suppose, encompass the *Independent*, Charter 88, Jeremy Paxman, the *Today* programme, *Prospect*, Paddy Ashdown, the *New Statesman*, Tony Blair's friends and office (if not perhaps Blair himself), the *Guardian*, Will Hutton, and so on.

But these days, we have to go further; the Tory crusade against Brussels has brought others into the constitutional debate, including Conservative newspapers and writers. The Tory Reform Group, scenting the public mood, suggests cutting the number of MPs. Then there is the judiciary itself. So the chattering classes have been joined by the harping classes and the admonishing classes.

We need a wider description. It was John Major who described Britain's political obsessions as "the upper one thousand of politics" – though my guess is that upper hundred thousand would be nearer the mark. Alternatively, one could turn to a familiar, hand-me-down phrase like "the Establishment". Which, ever, Britain is neatly divided into a country interested in the principles and mechanics of power and another, much greater, nation which isn't. And these two nations have lacked, in Disraeli's words, intercourse and sympathy.

This has had a big effect on our politics. It has tempted Conservative politicians to wave away pressing constitu-



ANDREW MARR

tional questions. Though a foe of anti-Europeanism, I think it is remarkable that we have got so far towards political union under successive Tory governments without a considered assessment of its effects on British law and governance. And as we saw last week, the ignorance of some Conservative MPs about basic constitutional thinking, such as the separation of functions, is breathtaking. But if they have been brought up to believe that power equals tax cuts plus jingoism, why bother with anything more complicated?

On the Labour side, nervousness about the relative unimportance of constitutional issues has persuaded some Blair advisers of the need to crunch down the political reform programme he is committed to. It is all just so much wasted parliamentary time and effort. It is not what "our people" want to hear.

This reduction of politics to cash was always a patronising piece of head-patting by very politicians who presented

themselves as populists. The British electorate is more varied, alert and reflective than that.

But even if that caricature once had a few grains of truth, there are fewer of them now. The recent revelations that have outraged the chattering classes – the dodgy fund-raising, the evasions in Parliament, the sleaze stories – are also things that go with the current prejudices of the rest of the country. People who feel hard-done-by economically and are bored with one set of politicians are abnormally open to the appeal of reform.

Meanwhile, on the right (but not only on the right) issues such as beef, fishing, and the earlier *Sun*-style distortions of European Commission directives have helped to popularise a constitutional argument about sovereignty which had been limited to the Powellites and the remnants of the anti-Common Market campaign.

In most respects the political reformers of the centre-left are on the opposite side to the constitutional reactionaries of the anti-EU campaign. Their dreams of Britain are different dreams. But both sides are united in hoping that economic determinism no longer applies to British politics.

For Labour and the Liberal Democrats, this is the great challenge and opportunity. The truth is, no great period of reform has occurred except

when economic interests and progressive politics have converged and driven ahead together. The Victorian and Edwardian reformers created a country of economic outcasts and of pension-holders with no say over the use of their money. Without reform, Scotland's political economy will continue to be distorted by her inability to experiment and the tendency to blame England.

Without reform, there will be more incompetent acts of, and by, Parliament, bringing economic costs and individual injustice in their wake. Without reform, the private monopoly power will not be properly restrained, and Whitehall will continue to have its agenda twisted in the dark corners where corporate cliques and

cronies congregate. Both mean wasted resources and squinted strategies.

And above all, without reform, government will not be trusted and, because it is mistrusted, its ability to act will be greatly diminished. Without reform, in short, politics itself will continue to retreat. And without politics, there is only the market; and that is not enough for prosperity or happiness. And on that subject both nations – the small nation of the political élite and the great nation of the apolitical and bored – are beginning to talk the same language. I don't entirely understand what Tony Blair means when he talks of a One Nation government. But if that's what he means, he is certain to do us some good.

Today, the connection between reform and prosperity is looser, since the state can no longer offer to hand out better times quickly or directly.

Above all, without reform government will not be trusted

Whitehall's machinery needs an overhaul

Say Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee were contending for power instead of John Major and Tony Blair. How would we laugh at the bomburges and the suits. Yet the machinery those old men would find on entering Whitehall would be instantly recognisable: the number and range of the departments and the committee grid that connects them are the administrative equivalent of a Forties valve radio.

But does machinery matter if Blair or Major know their minds and manifestos? It does, and it is anachronistic. The strong, semi-autonomous departments at the heart of British government are not neutral. They act like giant prisms bending and shaping the way politicians and policy advisers view the world. Around them have grown up, like barnacles, encrusted networks of interest groups, MPs and officials, all as ready to lobby against change: to the left as to the right, closing down options, heading off spending cuts at the pass. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the farmers' friends at court, is the obvious recent example. (Consumer interest gets short shrift across Whitehall – the Department of Trade and Industry is as much on the "producer" side as the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.)

Whitehall is like a kaleidoscope that

has not been shaken for years. As soon as departmental boundaries become fluid and changeable, vast policy opportunities open out. The Home Office, the Environment Department, the Department of Social Security – their names belie their functions. There is no synergy between them; they lock up policy options. How, for example, will Labour's thinking about a better relationship between benefits and work fare in a Whitehall structure where *ne'er* the twain meet?

For long years, the ministry, then department, of education relegated further, technical and vocational education to the periphery – they were to do with employment and that was somebody else's responsibility. It will be ages yet before the recently created Department for Education and Employment starts bringing ministers exciting new thought about the interaction of schools, universities and the world of work.

The case for reform is non-partisan. We all need better articulation within government of the interests of business than the DTI offers. There would be general benefit in combining the personal tax side of the Inland Revenue and the Department of Social Security, in carving a proper Ministry of Justice out of the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Home Office. (How much easier that would have

made Michael Howard's life of late.) The Tory reform agenda for Whitehall has, if anything, strengthened departmentalism – it has certainly weakened the processes by which departments share problems and think together about solutions. On Whitehall's structure, Mrs Thatcher was an arch-conservative. For all her talk, she did nothing to reform a For-

It's like a kaleidoscope that has not been shaken for years

reign Office locked into a view of the world that Palmerston would still recognise. In its place is needed a Department for Europe (which paradoxically would be even more necessary if the Euro-sceptics had their way and Britain moved to Europe's outer circle). Only superb linguists with German as their first foreign language would get posts. As for the rest of the world, embassies should be shut up, shared with friends in Europe or turned into outstations of a new Department of Business.

What needs to be done is, first, to map departments against a modernised list of functions, ranked

according to what it is government actually delivers, drawn up according to an honest assessment of what British governments can (and cannot) do. Clearly, Whitehall's shape ought in part to reflect the priorities of the party in power – the almost complete absence of Labour thinking about the machinery of power speaks volumes about the likelihood of a Blair government changing much.

A prime minister who is going to accomplish anything must reform Number 10. A radical would hand the actual building over to the National Trust and commission Sir Norman Foster to hack something exciting out of the back of the Treasury building (which is being pulled down anyway). A new PM's department, supported by a new, long-term think-tank on the lines of the former Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS), is essential if he or she is to have any chance of reviewing and monitoring across Whitehall, let alone tracking policies through time.

Since the building is being demolished, the time has come to destroy the Treasury and its mind-set. Gordon Brown needs to start making plans. One possibility is a Department of the Budget headed by a full cabinet minister responsible for policy and decisions on spending, taxation and delivering the "fiscal balance", defined as a ratio of spending to gross domestic product.

Rejigging Whitehall is only part of it. Civil service reform is incomplete. The key posts of Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service should be separated and the job descriptions of permanent secretaries revised. The number and workload of ministers needs urgent review. Some better "fit" into Whitehall of functions carried out by local and or regional government is needed, so that appropriate "homes" are found for them. There is urgent need of a study of the accountability, auditing and other regulatory regimes as they apply to quangos, the regulators and auditors themselves, and others who deliver public services. And so on.

This isn't tinkering because it is easier to fiddle in the garage than get out on the highway. Public faith in governing institutions is in freefall. People doubt government's competence. The object in a democratic system must surely be to work towards maximising the fit between the outcomes of government decisions and public will. The more modern the machinery of state, the closer the fit.

David Walker

The writer's booklet on Whitehall reform, *A Better Contrivance*, written with Sir Peter Kemp, is published today by the European Policy Forum.

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Scottish poised for £1.5bn Southern deal

NIC CICUTTI

ScottishPower, the expansionist electricity and gas company, is poised to try to add water to the portfolio of utilities it owns by announcing a takeover deal worth up to £1.5bn for Southern Water today.

The anticipated deal is expected to realise ScottishPower's ambition to become the first true multi-utility group in the UK, once domestic electricity and gas supply are opened up to competition in 1998.

It would also end short-lived hopes by rival bidders, including Southern Electric, of being

able to snatch Southern Water from ScottishPower's clutches.

However, sources at ScottishPower admitted last night that although an announcement was expected before trading began this morning, last-minute talks were continuing through the night. If final offers were to materialise, the deal would be put back.

Should Southern Water decide at the last moment that a better offer is on the table from Southern Electric, ScottishPower would be prepared to mount an unagreed bid - unless the asking price was too great.

A critical factor will be whether Southern Electric is

prepared to risk a rights issue of several hundred million pounds, with the rest financed out of debt, to pay for its takeover ambitions.

Sources close to Southern Water suggested yesterday that Electric need not move tomorrow but could delay a decision for some time yet.

ScottishPower, based in Glasgow, already has gas and telecommunications subsidiaries and wants to add Southern Water to Manweb, the Merseyside and North Wales electricity company acquired after a hostile £1.1bn takeover battle last year.

Southern Water, whose shares closed at 681p on Friday, valuing the company at about £1.1bn, is seen as having one of the strongest balance sheets, after buying back 10 per cent of its shares last year.

The company is thought to have triggered a last-minute bidding war in the hope of extracting improvements to the deal on the table from ScottishPower or of obtaining a better price from elsewhere.

For ScottishPower, which achieved operating profits of £477m in 1995/96, the deal could provide savings worth tens of millions of pounds through joint billing systems, metering, procurement and information

systems. However, insiders do not expect the savings to be as great as the £100m a year which Scottish hopes to achieve by 1998 from its takeover of Manweb.

Analysts have pointed out that ScottishPower's gearing, at 52 per cent, would rise in the event of a successful bid.

Scottish expects to develop a stronger brand name for itself as a utilities provider, irrespective of region. The company already owns Caledonian Gas, which supplies 6,000 commercial and industrial customers in the UK.

It is also developing a telecoms subsidiary, which is rolling

out a fibre-optic network in Central Scotland.

Southern Electric's entry into the battle for control of Southern Water follows the natural geographical overlap between the two companies, which both have franchises in the South of England. Savings could come from similar areas as with ScottishPower, including the merger of both companies' head offices. However, ministers are believed to have already been briefed that a consequent heavy loss of jobs in the South of England might be politically unpalatable in advance of a general election.

Sources within ScottishPower

er suggested that Southern Electric might face also an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if its bid were accepted by Southern Water, because of the overlap between the two companies.

Scottish, on the other hand, hopes that its own bid might not be referred because there are no obvious competitive issues arising from the merger.

The war between ScottishPower and Southern Electric for control of Southern Water is set to lift share prices for most water utilities when dealing starts today, despite uninspiring trading results expected from some utilities this week.

Electrics spark a retail-led recovery

NIGEL COPE

After a series of false dawns the battered UK economy is poised for three years of strong consumer spending growth. The optimistic forecast comes in a new survey of retail demand which says that recent improvements in consumer confidence will turn into a genuine economic recovery this year.

The report by Verdict, the respected retail consultancy, says the high street can look forward to the best trading climate since the late 1980s, even though it rules out a credit-driven consumer boom. A surge in spending on computers will set the pace, the new report predicts.

According to Verdict, the value of retail spending will rise by 23.5 per cent between now and the year 2000 while volumes (adjusted for inflation) will grow by 13.4 per cent. Conditions are forecast to become as buoyant in 1999 and 2000.

The upturn will be underpinned by falling unemployment and low interest rates together with windfall gains from maturing Tescos and building society flotations.

The election timetable should ensure the Government takes no measures that will dampen spending, the survey says.

It forecasts that the electrical sector will be boosted by strong demand for computers, which is tipped to rise by 200 per cent in value by the year 2000. Sales of televisions, videos and hi-fi equipment will be fuelled by new product developments.

DIY and furnishings will also do well as spending forges ahead. "This will lead to a sustained recovery in the housing market, always an absolute prerequisite of an upturn in Britain's consumer economy," said Verdict.

Verdict's statements follow a bullish set of economic figures last week, showing the biggest quarterly increase in consumer spending since the end of 1993.

PFI comes under fire as delays dog projects

MICHAEL HARRISON
Deputy City and Business Editor

The flagship of the Treasury's Private Finance Initiative, a £200m project to refurbish its own headquarters in Whitehall, is running almost a year behind schedule. The delay is the latest in a series of embarrassing setbacks.

The Government originally planned to announce the winner of the contract in the first quarter of this year but it is now unlikely to be awarded until some time in early 1997.

The competition to redevelop the Treasury building in Great George Street was announced with much fanfare by Chancellor Kenneth Clarke in November 1994, as part of a package to kick-start the flagging initiative.

A year later in November 1995, the Treasury shortlisted two private sector consortia. One comprised the construction group Bovis, Hambros Bank, the property company Stanhope and the property consultancy Chesterton. The other was Whitehall Corporation, a special purpose company set up by property developer Geoffrey Bradman in partnership with Haselmeier Estates.

The two bidders submitted their tenders in January but nothing has happened since. The Treasury is now asking the consortia to resubmit their bids next month.

It is thought that Whitehall Corporation offered the best financial deal while the other consortium came up with the most attractive proposals for redeveloping the site. The Treasury now wants either Whitehall Corporation to come up with a better proposal or the rival bidder to reduce its cost.

One source said: "You can appreciate that this is quite frustrating. It has taken the civil servants at the Treasury five months just to ask us to resubmit bids. We will be lucky to hear who has won the project this year."

The time taken to award contracts and the laborious tendering process involved is one of the main complaints levelled against the PFI. Some companies have been deterred from bidding altogether because of the tendering costs which can reach £2.5m to £3m on big projects, according to building analysts.

Builder John Laing has withdrawn from a £200m contract to

build a new hospital in east London, Britain's biggest privately-financed NHS project. The company said the deal was too complex, with the bidding process alone costing up to £500m.

Last week Bovis said it would not tender for any further PFI road projects. Even though it is only a minor player in the road building business, the decision was nevertheless seen as a blow to the initiative.

Even strong supporters of the PFI such as Taylor Woodrow, which has bid for two roads, three health projects and a light rail scheme, have criticisms of the initiative. A Taylor Woodrow spokesman said: "We are still positive about the PFI as a concept but everything is slow, the bidding costs are high and we haven't had any tangible results yet. We are still to put a spade in the ground on a PFI project."

In April the Treasury set a target of agreeing at least £14bn of projects under the PFI by the end of 1998/99. In 1995/96 deals worth £4.3bn - just under the Treasury's £5bn target - were agreed although one of these, the Channel tunnel rail link, accounted for £3bn of that total.



Lacking a certain initiative: The flagship private finance project to refurbish the Treasury is a year behind schedule

Single currency 'will create jobs'

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The single European currency could help to create up to a million jobs within a decade, contrary to fears expressed by the Governor of the Bank of England, according to new research.

Stable exchange rates and lower government budget deficits under the euro would allow interest rates to fall.

This would benefit the UK more than any other member state because its economy is far more sensitive to changes in interest rates, claim economists from the independent National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Writing in *New Economy*, the journal of the left-leaning Institute for Public Policy Research, researchers Ray Barrell and Nigel Pain estimate that the UK would gain the most from monetary union.

They reject the idea that staying out and being able to run a bigger government deficit will be more expansionary. "An increase in government investment, financed by borrowing, is likely to raise real interest rates and, in turn, decrease employment, eventually offsetting the increase in jobs generated by the extra spending," they claim.

The new research follows an apparent warning to the single currency by Labour Party spokesmen in the run-up to the party's launch today of its European agenda.

Andrew Smith, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said last week that staying out of European monetary union could

involve "substantial costs to the United Kingdom... including the effect on jobs, investment, trade and the City."

The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, has also spoken of the need for a constructive approach to Europe and monetary union in recent speeches in Paris and Bonn.

The research, based on a computer model of the European economies, finds two routes for reduced interest rates under monetary union. One is the cut in government borrowing required by the Maastricht Treaty. The other is the fact that under a single currency the German Bundesbank would not in effect set European interest rate levels alone.

They find that a 1 per cent cut in total government borrowing would eventually, on a cautious estimate, bring real interest rates down by 0.3 per cent, cutting unemployment by 0.6 per cent or around a million.

Concerns expressed by many that government efforts to meet the deficit target - described by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, as a "sprint for the finish" - risk recession and higher unemployment are at most a short-term worry, the authors argue. The UK will be better off if every one tightens their policy because we benefit more from lower interest rates," Mr Barrell said.

High unemployment in Europe is more due to the increase in interest rates since the late 1970s than the usual suspects such as generous benefits, trade union power or Third World trade, according to the paper.

Science squib Investors remain wary of the perils of the £4bn sector

MAGNUS GRIMOND

The sparkle of biotechnology is turning out to be a disappointing damp squib for investors.

Last week's long-awaited announcement by British Biotech, the leader of the biotechnology pack, on its potential blockbuster anti-cancer drug Marimastat extended November's successful findings about the drug.

But instead of the euphoria of November, when the company's shares soared nearly 50 per cent overnight, the shares drifted back on Friday, after a surge to brief surge to around £38, to close at £27.90. That is some £2.40 below their price before the latest news.

Perhaps just as surprising, the rest of the sector, which was dragged up in the explosion in British Biotech's shares last year, has this time stubbornly refused to respond.

Many in the City remain seriously sceptical about biotech companies, despite the surge in share prices during the past six months, which has seen them grow to a £4bn sector.

For investors who have seen the value of their stake in British Biotech multiply more than five times over the past 12 months, the temptation to sell and lock in profits must have been difficult to resist. Many professional investors only started to turn more positive about the sector last year.

As it has mushroomed in size, it has become increasingly hard to ignore even by those who steered clear at first. But

there is also evidence that institutional fund managers still remain very wary about biotechnology. Employing analysts who are experts in the field, many are particularly cautious about the steady valuations being attached to companies which make no profits and have no products to sell.

One big London fund manager describes as "quite terrifying" the recent capitalisations of the biotech companies. "I can understand why people are investing in them, but at these levels it is getting a bit hairy. I don't think [the current] ideas are any more viable than five years ago, when we last had a biotech bubble."

That view is echoed by a senior manager at one big Scottish institution. "We like to invest in things we have a good understanding of and this sort of thing presents us with a serious difficulty. It is a real fundamental problem. Science is very imprecise and although it can often help you decide what is a winning strategy, it can never predict what will be a winning product."

Another institutional investor with "modest" funds in the sector is sceptical about the sort of valuation methods being applied to biotech companies. When people are trying to estimate returns from drugs way into the future, "you could work out circumstances where the price of shares is 100 per cent wrong, both on the downside and on the upside."

He views calculations by analysts of future values using dis-

count factors and capital asset pricing models as "a bit bookish and academic". At the end of the day it comes down to a matter of judgement, he believes, and at the moment he sees the main question as whether British Biotech can become a serious drugs company.

"There is a bit of hype in it at the moment," he says. "The balance of risks is tipping into this being a bit of a bubble."

Jeremy Currook Cook of Rothschild Asset Management, who has probably one of the longest track records in the biotechnology investment business, puts the UK's fledgling market into context. He points out that there are around 260 listed biotechnology companies in the US, against just 15 over here. "The UK is a market with slightly different characteristics to the US. For a start, it's much smaller, so when investment sentiment turns positive, it's spread over a smaller number of companies and my

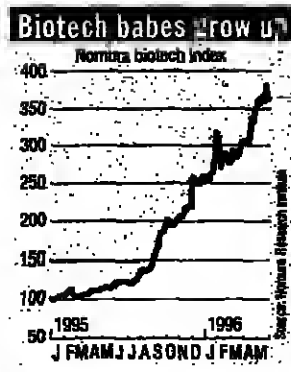
view is that tends to have a greater effect than is the case in the US."

There are also a great many more analysts covering the industry across the Atlantic and they tend to take the risks to the sector more seriously than their UK brethren. He estimates that if British Biotech were translated to the US, it would be valued at somewhat over \$500m in the US, a fraction of the £1.6bn capitalisation put on it by the London market.

The US has become a serious industry, generating most of the \$10bn annual sales now clocked up by biotechnology companies around the world. A drug like Epo, an anaemia treatment developed by Amgen of the US, alone represents sales of \$2.2bn.

The UK sector is showing growing evidence of solidity, surviving shocks like the abandonment by Celltech of a key anti-asthma drug in February. But Mr Currook Cook concurs with other UK fund managers who say that what would really transform the industry would be evidence that a company can take a product all the way through to market.

He draws comfort, however, from the fact that over the past two years the mainstream drugs companies have come to provide at least as much investment in the biotechnology sector as the public equity markets. A real partnership is growing between the two sides of the industry, which he says gives him comfort for the outlook over the next five to 10 years.



BSkyB plans to go slow on digital launch

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

BSkyB may delay the planned introduction of digital satellite to protect its lucrative earnings from analogue pay-TV, company insiders have confirmed.

The satellite broadcaster, owned 40 per cent by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, has already hatched plans to introduce a new digital service with as many as 300 channels, and said earlier this month it would launch this service from the autumn of 1997.

But it is intent on keeping its options open, and will await the response of competitors to the Government's plans to licence a digital terrestrial television service from 1998.

"Sky has put its marker down by talking up the idea of digital satellite," said one leading City analyst. "But they would be crazy to move any earlier than necessary, given how profitable their current analogue service is."

Analysts predict that BSkyB will hold off launching its new service until digital terrestrial television looks like it will actually work.

There are doubts in the media sector that the high costs of developing the proposed service will be met by commercial broadcasters.

BSkyB has already moved to limit the ongoing costs of launching digital satellite services by striking long-term contracts for the supply of programming and exploring ways of subsidising the introduction of digital set-top boxes to the marketplace, as well as agreeing an innovative deal with Astra, the satellite company, to lower the rental payments for the 14 transponders required for digital services after 1997.

All three strategies are aimed at lowering the costs and risks of the digital launch. But the approach also gives the company "the flexibility to choose when it introduces the new service," David Chance, managing director of BSkyB, has confirmed.

The programming contracts with Hollywood studios, for example, are based on the principle of revenue-sharing.



Rupert Murdoch: Keeping options open

Once the new digital services are operational, Sky will offer films on a pay-per-view basis, using as many as 60 channels to broadcast a wide selection of titles.

But it will not have to make upfront payments for the pay-per-view rights. For its current analogue service, programming is one of the company's key costs, totalling more than £400m in 1995/96.

The satellite deal with Astra will also reduce annual costs. By co-funding the launch of a new digital satellite in the second orbital position, BSkyB's rental costs on digital transponders will be cut by as much as 40 per cent.

BSkyB has also launched services with as many as a dozen retailers, set-top box manufacturers and retailers, aimed at reducing the cost of digital receiving equipment to about £200.

British Telecom is believed to have taken part, as have at least two banks - Barclays Bank and the Co-operative Bank. Reducing the cost of set-top boxes could attract viewers to the new digital services once they are available.

Even after the launch of digital, BSkyB intends to "dual-illuminate" in both analogue and digital, in order to continue to service its five million subscribers.

It will announce today that it has leased additional analogue capacity on Astra 1A and 1B, which may be used to add new programming this autumn.

STOCK MARKETS									
FT-SE 100									
	Index	Close	Week's chg	Change (%)	1995 High	1996 Low	YTD High	YTD Low	YTD Change
FTSE 100		3762.10	-37.5	-1.0	3657.10	3639.50	4.02		
FTSE 250		4490.00	-22.4	-0.5	4568.00	4015.30	3.35		
FTSE 350		1900.00	-17.0	-0.9	1945.40	1816.60	3.87		
FT Small Cap		2233.89	-5.8	-0.3	2241.97	1954.06	2.91		
New York		5782.86	-15.9	-0.3	5824.17	5791.85	3.79		
Tokyo		21699.8	-218.9	-1.0	5778.00	5032.94	2.17		
Hong Kong		11019.16	+202.3	+1.9	11594.99	10204.87	3.31		
Frankfurt		2542.24	+4.9	+0.2	2570.78	2284.65	1.85		

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates									
	Index	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
UK		5.84	6.38	6.05	7.93	8.14	7.99		
US		5.51	5.81	6.86	6.41	6.84	6.76		
Japan		0.50	0.91	2.24	2.94				
Germany		3.34	3.38	6.40	6.71	7.03			

CURRENCIES									
\$/£									
	Index	Close	Week's chg	YTD High	YTD Low	YTD Change			
\$ (London)		1.5729	-0.28c	1.5845					
\$ (New York)		1.5120	-0.15c	1.5585					
DM (London)		2.5319	+1.87d	2.425					
¥ (London)		162.896	+11.259	158.09					
₹ (London)		84.9	+0.5	88.5					

OTHER INDICATORS									
Oil Brent \$									
	Index	Close	Week's chg	YTD High	YTD Low	YTD Change			
Oil Brent \$		19.10	+1.47	17.77					
Gold \$		380.70	-0.35	387.00					
Gold £		258.24	-0.42	240.84					

مكتبة من الصحف



GAVYN DAVIES

The evidence implies that the key central banks have spent much of the past decade setting policy as if they have been following the Taylor rule

Aims that help inflation policy land on target

It is considered dangerous nowadays to fly without an auto-pilot, whether you are an airline or a central bank. Not that the central banks ever really had a reliable auto-pilot, but they thought they did when monetary aggregates were in vogue in the 1970s and 1980s. These days the use of monetary targets has all but been abandoned as an automatic signalling mechanism for interest rate policy, but there is still a restless feeling that some form of fixed rule would be desirable to help frame monetary decisions.

In the recent past, there has been increasing interest in a rule suggested by John Taylor of Stanford University, which links interest rates to a mechanistic way to the inflation rate and the amount of spare capacity in the economy. This is a rule which we are destined to hear a lot more about. It is under intense scrutiny at the moment in both the Treasury and the Bank of England, and has been the subject of several favourable comments from Alan Blandford, outgoing vice chairman of the Federal Reserve in Washington. Although no central bank would admit to following the rule blindly, one of its main attractions lies in the fact that it appears to mimic the actual behaviour of the central banks with remarkable accuracy, so it can be used for forecasting purposes, as well as for guiding policy makers.

The rule explicitly acknowledges that central banks should have two separate objectives – the long-run control of price inflation, and the short-run stabilisation of output around its long-run trend. (Note that the second objective is only to reduce fluctuations in output and employment, not to change their average levels in the long run; the sole long-run objective relates to stable prices.)

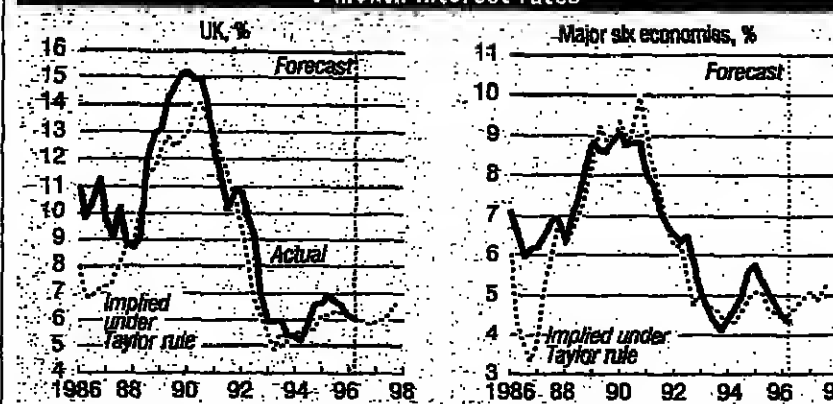
These twin objectives may sound unfamiliar to British ears, since the current strategic objective given to the Bank of England by the Treasury involves an inflation target and nothing else. But no one in official circles would deny that there is, in practice, a trade-off between price stability and the stabilisation of output, and that both objectives should have some role in the setting of monetary policy.

This is probably why the Treasury has set a 1-4 per cent target range for inflation, as well as saying that in the long term the objective is to hold inflation to below 2.5 per cent. Although somewhat shrouded in the mists of deliberate obscurity, I take this combination to mean that inflation might be allowed to fluctuate around the 2.5 per cent central objective if this should be considered necessary to stabilise output and employment.

The danger with trying to follow a twin objective, however, is that it can seduce policy makers into accepting a rise in inflation pressure for far too long, on the grounds that they are trying to "stabilise" output when in fact output and employment are already well above their sustainable levels. The private sector knows that this temptation exists, so they build into their inflation expectations a permanent risk premium on the grounds that it may one day happen. This risk premium makes inflation harder to eliminate than it need otherwise be, even if the authorities always "behave themselves".

One way of overcoming this problem is to tie the hands of the central banks into a formal policy rule, such as the inflation target operated in the UK. But it is known that rigid rules of this sort are sub-optimal, because they do not allow any specific role for output stabilisation. The idea of the Taylor rule

3 month interest rates



is that it specifies exactly how the central bank should mix the twin objectives of price stability and output stabilisation. By specifying the exact mix in advance, it avoids the risk that the central bank will be tempted by "special circumstances" to deviate from the straight and narrow.

To operate the Taylor rule, the authorities first decide on a "neutral" level for real short-term interest rates, possibly by looking at the average level which has been attained in previous economic cycles. For the UK, I reckon that the neutral real short rate is somewhere around 3.5 per cent. If inflation is at the target rate (2.5 per cent), and if output is at its trend level, then the authorities should set the real short rate at the neutral level of 3.5 per cent. Adding back the inflation rate, this suggests that the base rate under such circumstances should be about 6 per cent.

The rule then allows base rates to deviate

from this level for two reasons. First, if inflation is above the 2.5 per cent target, base rates are increased by half the excess of inflation over its target. Second, if there is an output gap in the economy (ie output is below trend), base rates are reduced by half the extent of the output gap. Hence there is a simple trade-off between increasing interest rates if need be to hit the inflation target, while reducing them if necessary to stabilise output – and vice versa.

In practice, the application of any such rule will obviously lead to many complications, and no central bankers worth their salt (or their salaries) would ever dream of reducing the huge complexities of monetary policy to such a simple technique. Or that, anyway, is what they routinely say when asked about the Taylor rule. But what does their actual behaviour betray about the way they take decisions?

At Goldman Sachs, we have been seeing

whether the Taylor rule is capable of tracking the actual interest rate paths set by central banks over the past 10 years. The evidence, as shown in the graphs, is very surprising – it implies that the key central banks have spent much of the past decade setting policy as if they have been following the Taylor rule. This applies as much to the UK as it does to other economies.

This rather startling observation has two clear implications. First, when it comes to forecasting central bank policy – which is the first crucial step towards understanding the behaviour of financial markets – it is very useful to see what the Taylor rule is implying about the future.

At present, as the graphs show, the rule implies that the trend in short-term rates in the Group of Seven countries will be gradually upwards in the next 12 to 18 months, but not by as much as the markets presently predict.

Second, it is possible to use the rule to gauge what UK policy setting should be in place right now. On this, with inflation slightly above target, but the output gap somewhat negative, it suggests that base rates should be almost exactly equal to their neutral level of 6 per cent – which happens also to be exactly where the Chancellor has put them. Furthermore, on the Goldman Sachs forecasts for inflation and GDP growth in the next 12 months, the Taylor rule reckons that the current level of rates will stay about right until after the election.

It would be a mistake to push such a simple mechanism too far. But it is comforting to note that, according to the Taylor rule, the stance of British monetary policy remains about right, even in a pre-election period. Let us hope it stays that way.

A bridge over some very troubled water

Sooner or later the question inevitably surfaces. After 32 years in the tranquil backwaters of accountancy, what on earth possessed Brandon Gough to take on the job of running Britain's most-hated company?

The new chairman of Yorkshire Water shifts slightly in his seat and then replies in equally candid fashion. "Having spent all my career in one business and with one firm I decided there was just enough time left to tackle something different. But there is no point saying you are available for jobs unless you are prepared to take on the challenging ones."

To describe the posting to Yorkshire Water as challenging may seem a trifle understated to some. The fiasco of last summer's drought and Yorkshire Water's inept response to it will take some beating in the annals of public relations disasters.

The fiasco did for Mr Gough's predecessor, Sir Gordon Jones, who led the entire water industry into privatisation seven years ago but left Yorkshire Water with his reputation all but destroyed. It did for the company's managing director, Trevor Newton, too – the man who famously refused to take a bath, at least inside the county, for three months.

Water companies seem to breed larger-than-life chairmen who treat their territories like fiefdoms. Sir Gordon was to Yorkshire what his counterpart at North West Water, Sir Desmond Pitcher, is to Lancashire.

Mr Gough, however, has no pretensions to grandeur, no great plan to become another king of the ridges. In any case he comes from completely the wrong side of the Pennines.

Indeed, he intends to stay firmly put in Sevenoaks, Kent, where he lives with his wife. He will put in about two days a

After a career in the gentle ponds of accountancy, Yorkshire's new chairman batters down for squalls

week on Yorkshire Water business and travel up to Leeds perhaps once a week.

The rest of his time will be divided between his other non-executive directorships – at the security printers De La Rue, the construction group George Wimpey and National Power – and his public sector job as chairman of the Higher Education Funding Council.

Yet perhaps Mr Gough is just what Yorkshire needs. Born and brought up in the Wirral on Merseyside, he was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, and joined Couper & Lybrand in 1964 at the age of 26. There he stayed until 1994, becoming a partner by the time he was 30 and chairman at just 45.

He does not think his lack of

THE MONDAY INTERVIEW BRANDON GOUGH

industry knowledge, local presence or Yorkshire roots will be a disadvantage. "I see my role as being to understand the key elements of the business and to balance shareholders' and customer interests, not to run the day-to-day management of the company. We will be putting a lot of emphasis on local management. After all they live there and can see the level of the water in the reservoirs."

Ah yes, the reservoir levels. Since half the country's water needs are supplied from reservoirs, it is a matter of some interest. Last autumn the water supply system to West Yorkshire failed and supplies were only maintained through mass road tankering of water from neighbouring counties.

The cost to the company in financial terms will be laid bare

next week (on 5 June) when Yorkshire Water announces its annual results. The drought cost it £47m and is expected to have left pre-tax profits about 10 per cent lower at around £140m.

But Yorkshire Water is still paying a bigger cost in terms of public mistrust. "In the short term we need to reassure our customers about security of supply," Mr Gough says. "While they were never cut off last year, people had an awful fright and I can see why they are apprehensive about this year."

The best estimates, he says, are that Yorkshire Water will be able to keep supplies flowing this summer, even if 1996 proves to be drier than 1995. Although hosepipe bans will remain in place there should be no need to tanker in water and certainly no need for rota cuts.

But these are short-term issues and what Mr Gough would really like to do is begin setting out a framework for how Yorkshire Water will improve the lot of its shareholders and customers over the longer term.

"The utilities are at the end of the first phase in their transition from public ownership," he says. "The interesting question is what happens next and what are the possibilities to develop the relationship between the utilities and their customers."

"Realistically there can only be one supplier of water – you get the services and the terms offered and that is it. But we have to look hard at whether that is the limit to the relationship."

He intends to start with York-



Reservoir bogs: Brandon Gough needs to reassure customers that levels will be up

shire's business customers, which should be interesting since the last time the company had contact with them it was to suggest that they might like to shift production out of the county to other sites in order to save water. The idea did not go down very well.

Mr Gough now says Yorkshire wants to work more closely with its commercial customers. One example is in the treatment of effluent. At the moment, Yorkshire simply charges on a sliding scale according to how harmful the effluent is or how difficult it is to

treat. "But it might pay for companies to undertake some intermediate treatment on site or recycling more of their effluent. That is one area where we might work with customers and help them deal with a problem in a way which is beneficial for them and simplifies our waste treatment operations."

Developing a relationship with its 2 million household customers may take a little longer. Mr Gough concedes that no "magic developments" are likely in the near future. Instead the stress will be on making it easier for customers to get access

to the company and make inquiries. Ultimately he would like to see all Yorkshire's customers have greater choice in what they pay and how they choose to use their water. By that is he referring to water metering. "Personally I like being metered. When I first moved into a house in Kent it saved me money."

Metering, of course, is not to everyone's liking. Mr Gough might do well out to put a new controversy at the top of the Yorkshire Water agenda.

Michael Harrison

IN BRIEF

• Leisure group Ladbroke has sold one of its most prestigious UK hotels to a Hong Kong property company for £100m. The group – which owns Hilton International – has announced that it has sold the freehold interest in the Langham Hilton Hotel in central London to Great Eagle Holdings.

Hilton International will continue to operate the hotel under a management contract. Ladbroke said it has received a £10m deposit. The balance is due on completion, which is expected to take place in August. The proceeds of the sale are to be used to reduce group debt. The 380-room hotel made an operating profit of £7.5m in the financial year to the end of December 1995.

The original Langham Hotel was opened in 1865 and was known as one of the capital's premier hotels until the 1940s when it was converted to offices. Famous guests who have stayed at Langham in the past include Emperor Louis-Napoleon III, Haile Selassie and Mark Twain.

Ladbroke bought the property, situated on Portland Place opposite Broadcasting House, from the BBC in 1986 and reopened the hotel as a Hilton in 1991.

• Rudolf Mueller, the chairman of Union Bank of Switzerland in the UK, is to join the board of Lend Lease, Australia's highest property and financial services group.

Mr Mueller steps down from the executive board of UBS at the end of this month, although he will remain non-executive chairman in London.

Lend Lease, which has A\$33.1bn (£17m) under management, has been operating in the UK for five years.

• Venture capitalists CINVen are backing the £34m management buy-out of carpet maker Duralay from BBA Group. CINVen is putting up equity of £16.5m, the management will fund further equity and NatWest Markets has arranged £19m in borrowings. Duralay, based in Haslingden, Lancashire, has 15 staff and had sales of £49.1m last year.

• South Korean conglomerate Daewoo has added shipbuilding to its interests in Romania, paying \$53m for a controlling stake in a Black Sea shipbuilder.

Daewoo is investing \$53m in the Mangalia shipyard. The shipyard's own contribution to the joint venture is equipment and facilities valued at an estimated \$51m.

• Mediastet, the Italian television and advertising group has made an official request to financial watchdog Consob for a quotation on the bourse. Mediastet, at present controlled by Silvio Berlusconi's Fininvest, announced on 24 May that it was delaying for five days a decision on the price range for a Milan stock market flotation planned for June.

Doubts grew over whether the flotation would take place after Milan magistrates earlier this month issued arrest warrants for seven employees or former employees suspected of being linked to alleged falsification of Fininvest's accounts.

Consob is due to report by the end of the week whether it will allow Mediastet's listing to go ahead.

• General Electric has won a \$1.79bn (£1.18bn) contract to supply a nuclear power plant, similar to Britain's Sizewell B, in Taiwan, beating Westinghouse and a US unit of ABB to clinch the deal. The plant, Taiwan's fourth, is due to be completed by the year 2004.

The legislature voted at the weekend to cancel the power plant's \$6bn budget, but opponents will need to muster a two-thirds majority to scrap the plan after the Taiwanese government resubmits the bill.

When you can't see the lighthouse for the rocks

Can the ancient sages shed light on the puzzling behaviour of foreign and local investors on the TSE?

As a breed, stockbrokers don't tend to give much heed to ancient Oriental sayings, but there is one that has been doing the rounds in Tokyo recently. *Todai moto kaurushi* is not a snappy proverb, the best translation would be something like "It is dark at the base of the lighthouse". Less obscurely, it means that people who are standing right next to a good thing often don't appreciate what is under their noses.

Brokers in Japan were quoting this aphorism a couple of months ago to explain a puzzling situation. All year, foreign investors had been swooping on Japanese stocks, spending about \$20m (£13m) on them in the first two and a half months of the year. But their enthusiasm was not shared by the natives; during the same period, Japanese investors had been net sellers, although they began cautious buying at the end of March.

This was curious, for the year was indeed looking like a bullish one for the Tokyo Stock Exchange. At its nadir last July, the Nikkei Stock Average sank to below 15,000. These days it is up about 50 per cent, the fundamentals look healthy. The dollar has got over last year's

precipitous plummet against the yen, boosting Japanese exports. The Bank of Japan's discount interest rate, at a record low of half of 1 per cent, makes it cheap and painless for companies to borrow and expand. The government finally seems to be getting its act together in a plan to bail out a group of bankrupt housing loan companies, and the gentle but palpable easing of recessionary fears has imparted a glow of cautious optimism.

To keen foreign buyers, last year's rumours of endemic bank failures and a downward spiralling stock market meltdown seemed an age ago. "There's a fear of not owning Japanese stocks," said one American analyst, back at the beginning of April. "If you don't, and the market goes up, you'll be far, far behind your competitors."

In the past few weeks, however, the situation has reversed itself. Now it is the Japanese who are buying (although still cautiously), while the foreigners have become sellers. Increasingly, the short-term future of the TSE is looking shaky – as yesterday's 99 point drop in the Nikkei 225 index

back below 22,000 illustrates. The positive factors which encouraged the buying spree are balanced by a number of big uncertainties.

The most alarming of these is interest rates. Earlier this month, several of Japan's top banks raised their long term prime loan rate to 3.6 per cent, a full 1 per cent up on the year. This may well fuel the recent weakening of the dollar. The combination – an increase in lending costs and the price of exports – could take the sheen off company performance and rob the markets of their buoyancy.

But more fundamental is the government's role. The modest up turn in the economy has not happened of its own accord but has been fuelled by immense public works programmes – more than \$600bn of govern-

ment money has been spent in the past three years on six separate packages, each designed to kick start the economy. Cumulatively, they have had their effect. But the government has made clear that the money tap has now been turned firmly off. As the old proverb fails to point out, the lighthouse may

cast a bright light, but if you sail too close to it, you hit the rocks.

Japanese banks have never been pioneers of sexual equality but the Bank of Tokyo (BoT), at least, stood out for its recruitment and promotion of female employees.

The BoT was unique in several ways. Specialising in foreign exchange and international financing, its business was concentrated overseas, with few domestic outlets. Its employees

were some of the trendiest bankers in Tokyo: drawn from the top universities, many of them internationally educated, they inevitably served much of their careers overseas. But the BoT was also notable for what, by Japanese standards, was a remarkably enlightened attitude towards women.

Of the 11 city banks, it was one of the smallest in terms of assets (although still the 18th biggest in the world). But it had the oldest and longest-serving female employees (average age 32, average career nearly 11 years) and the highest ratio of women (43 per cent), an impressive proportion of them in managerial and career track positions.

But last month, the BoT ceased to exist in its familiar form. On 1 April, it merged with one of its rivals to form the Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank. In asset terms, the new bank is easily the biggest in the world, and the BoT's extensive foreign network, combined with Mitsubishi's expertise in domestic financing, give it a formidable presence both inside and outside the second biggest economy in the world. But the corporate cul-

tures were very different: while the BoT was a fast-moving, outward-looking international outfit, Mitsubishi was a proud and conservative Japanese institution – with a very traditional policy towards recruiting women.

Only a third of the old Mitsubishi Bank's employees were women, and they were statistically far less likely to make it to management positions, or to stay at the bank for a lifetime. In the new mega bank, only 5,000 of the 21,000 employees come from BoT; but it supplies 160 of the 240 female managers. These are early days, but the rumours emanating from Tokyo-Mitsubishi are that many of the BoT women fear for their prospects.

"Women are usually just assigned to simple routine posts like clerks," says one ex-Mitsubishi woman, hired on the fast stream, who later quit. "It's taken for granted that serving tea and making copies are women's work. There's an unwritten rule that if bank employees marry one another, one of them resigns and it's usually the woman. Most of them seem to accept it, because they know there's nothing they can do."

Richard Lloyd Parry



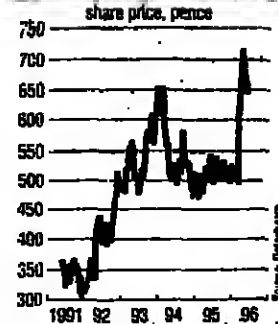
Women's work: High-flyers are worried lest their careers fall foul of tradition after the BoT merged with Mitsubishi

business

The City prepares for a wet Whitsun as the water results flow forth

Water, an increasingly controversial commodity, dominates the stock market this week. Apart from the fact that more bids are likely to flow, three of the privatised utilities are due to produce figures and even the most casual students of the industry will be awaiting more tales of shortage and wastage with, for light relief, perhaps further gaffes of the cement-your-lawn variety.

South West Water



South West Water, with figures on Thursday, has experienced a catalogue of disasters, being described as an object lesson on the pitfalls of privatisation.

It is the company which pumped a precious billion gallons of the stuff into the sea at the height of last year's drought, has hosepipe bans in place, had problems with contaminated water and sewage and has the audacity to have the highest water charges in the land.

It looked as though SWW could be taken out of its misery: a blessed oblivion which would have delighted much of Whitehall and, it is believed, would even find favour with Ian Byatt, the industry regulator.

But takeover bids from more efficient neighbours, Severn Trent and Wessex, were last week referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Clearance is eventually expected with an Ofwat deal over prices a significant influence.

But the probe, which will presumably clear the way for a bid battle, delays the absorption of the country's most accident-prone utility, after, of course, British Gas.

SWW is unlikely to rub salt into its customers' complaints by producing a profit increase. NatWest Securities is looking for a 3 per cent fall to £98m. Analyst Robert Miller-Bakewell expects, however, the dividend to be lifted, by perhaps 7 per cent to 29.2p. With a bid battle looming, it is too soon to put too much on display.

As Mr Miller-Bakewell puts it: "The more delivered now the less which will be available when the real bid gets underway to offer some form of defence."

The water profits season - the stock market loves to create reporting seasons - is launched tomorrow by Anglian Water, one of the cash-rich groups to indulge in a share buy-back, a near 10 per cent exercise.



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Anglian's results should be satisfactory with, say, £245m against £230m and a 12 per cent dividend increase to 29p.

United Utilities, the combined Norweb electricity and North West Water, group, could produce £348m against £298m, although its figures are going to be confused by the inevitable - and extensive - restructuring which accompany any such merger.

Still, there should be dividend joy, an increase of 31 per cent to 32.45p is the Miller-Bakewell guess.

One other water company is due to make a profits splash, little Mid Kent which has been under French takeover siege for five months.

Last week it, too, was sucked into an MMC investigation. Profits are likely to be £10m, up from £8.3m with a 13 per cent dividend increase to 14.2p.

Mid Kent, a former statutory water company, has expressed indignation at the French bid. Compagnie Générale des Eaux and Saur already have 39 per cent of the capital. The bidders intend, if successful, to split Mid Kent between South East Water and Rolleston & Dover - both French owned.

The French influence is already strong in the South-east water industry and consumer groups are fretting about the threat to competition. The Mid Kent affair is seen as a

battle over the county's water supply.

Water shares have felt the impact of the Government's takeover policy somewhat and are unlikely to draw much inspiration from this week's flow of results. The threat of more regulatory interference, already a stifling factor elsewhere in the utility sector, is also rattling sentiment.

The market, as a whole, spent last week drifting lower in indecisive trading, falling, once again, to make any significant response to more New York records.

Another indifferent week is expected with political influences, a particular worry for utilities, likely to erode occasional bursts of exuberance.

The market needs a surge of takeover bids. The absence of significant corporate activity, except among utilities, is baffling many observers.

Even share buy-backs and special dividends are failing to

make much impression and although there is still a strong swell of opinion supporting the view shares should make strong headway in the short term, year-end targets for the FTSE 100 index remain mixed.

Some strategists, like Richard Jeffrey of Charterhouse, Tim Brown and Scott Evans of UBS are on 3,800, and Paul Walton and Edmund Shing at Goldman Sachs, expect 3,400. But the Goldman duo support the feeling there will be a short-term upswing with a 4,000 target.

Among others reporting this week is Carlton Communications, the media group. It has half-time figures on Wednesday with around £130m expected compared with £120m.

Another is London International, reshaped and restructured and looking on line for a £7m profit advance to

£25m. The dividend should be doubled to 2p.

Last month the condom maker announced its first large deal since in was rescued two years ago from its disastrous move into photo processing which almost brought the company down. It took over Aladan, an American group with a contract to supply 250 million condoms to the US Government, for £46m.

Sketchley, still deep into film processing through its Super Snap shops but best known for its dry cleaning outlets, is unlikely to end the week on a cheerful holiday note on Friday. Its profits are likely to come out a shade lower at £6.2m.

Dry cleaning has been its problem. Two months ago it said it would close 160 loss-making shops at a cost of £7.5m. It still has 550 cleaners but seems to see a brighter exposure developing dry cleaning and film branches in J Sainsbury supermarkets.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other dealers: Ex rights: Ex dividend: Ex all: Unlisted Securities Market: a Superscripted on Parity Paid Nil Paid Shares. Source: FT Information

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Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Bank of England	Discount	Prime	Discount
Base Rate	4.50%	Discount	5.00%
Overnight	3.75%	Bank Rate	5.50%
Three Months	4.00%	Three Month	5.25%
Six Months	4.00%	Six Month	5.25%
One Year	4.00%	One Year	5.25%
Two Year	4.00%	Two Year	5.25%
Three Year	4.00%	Three Year	5.25%
Five Year	4.00%	Five Year	5.25%

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Source: Bank of England, Federal Reserve, Bank of Japan, Bank of Korea, Bank of China, Bank of India, Bank of Indonesia, Bank of Malaysia, Bank of New Zealand, Bank

sport

Rocca rolls past Faldo down the Burma Road

Golf

TIM GLOVER
reports from Wentworth

During his career, Costantino Rocca has had to put up with some jokes, in the poorest taste, about Italian tanks having reverse gears but yesterday he went into overdrive down the closing stretch of the Burma Road to win the Volvo PGA Championship, the European Tour's first £1m tournament. The Italian reformation was complete, for not only did Rocca win £166,660 but he did so in the most impressive style possible: he kept Nick Faldo in his shadow.

Rocca almost singlehandedly took the blame for Europe's defeat in the Ryder Cup at The Belfry in 1993 when he missed a short putt at the penultimate hole before losing a crucial singles match. Although he played an important role in Europe's victory in America last September, there were still nagging doubts about whether Rocca was a big-time winner. He won two Tour events in 1993 and last year was second on five occasions, most memorably in the Open Championship at St Andrews, where he was defeated in a play-off by John Daly.

Yesterday when Rocca looked in his rear-view mirror he saw a sight regarded by most players as worse than a flashing blue light. The majority pull in and allow Faldo to

overtake. The 39-year-old Rocca, though, was fortified by an article he had read in an Italian newspaper. "Nick Faldo said that if he had to lose a major to me he would be happy. Today he finished second to me and I think he's happy." Not quite happy, but there is no dishonour in finishing runner up to a golfer of Rocca's quality.

The final round began with Rocca and Mark McNulty leading at 11 under, one stroke in front of Paul Lawrie and three in front of Faldo. Faldo got in an early blow with a rare birdie three at the first where he hit a three-iron approach to 15 feet and by the time he reached the 13th he appeared to have stamped his authority on the championship.

By that stage, Faldo had gone to 12 under. He had birdies at the fourth, the 11th and the 12th but it was the 13th that not only brought him his only bogey of the round but provided Rocca with the breathing space he needed. Faldo had come into the championship wearing a new philosophy on his sleeve: to be more aggressive with his putting, go with the flow and if the first one does not go in, tough.

The first putt did not go in at the 13th, nor did the second and when that tipped out of the hole he did a scapogol around the green. "A photographer was taking pictures at the wrong time," Faldo snapped. Even so, he was back on course when he

holed from 25 feet for a birdie three at the 15th which got him back to 12 under.

The F factor (the heart-beat almost bounces through the sweater) seemed to come into play when Rocca, who had got to 13 under, sliced his drive into the trees at the 15th. He was lucky to limit the damage to a bogey five. "Into my mind came this little thought," he said, referring to the newspaper article.

Faldo was heading for a 66 but, critically, he failed to get a birdie at the 17th and 18th, both par fives. Rocca birdied both to finish at 14 under, finally holing from around 10 feet at the last for a two-stroke victory over Faldo and Lawrie. The runners up each won £36,850 but whereas this represented a minor triumph for Lawrie, it was a major lapse for Faldo. At the 18th, he had a six-iron approach to the hole and instead found a bunker. This time it was Faldo, not Rocca, who had come up short and it is arguable as to whether the crowd would have warmed more to the Englishman than the Italian. Rocca seemed to think that London's Italian restaurants had been closed so the staff could line the fairways but even if the Burma Road had a spaghetti junction, the fact is you do not have to be born in Bergamo to raise a glass to the ageing Rocca.

The championship was televised by the BBC, which appears

to be on something of a film roll at the moment. Having extended its contract to cover the Open Championship for the next five years, the corporation signed a four-year deal with the European Tour - which may take in Russia next year - yesterday to secure rights to some big chip events, including this one.

As press conferences go, it was hardly a great advertisement for the technological revolution. At one point, Jonathan Martin, the BBC's head of sport, was interrupted by one of his employees, albeit the doyen of commentators, Peter Alliss. "Jonathan," Alliss said, sounding for all the world as if his boss had just missed a three-footer, "can you please repeat the questions, because people in the audience don't know what the hell you're on about."

This was hardly Martin's job, and in any case you would have thought he had enough clout to instruct Alliss to put down his glass of champagne and lend his authority to the proceedings. In fairness, Alliss's rejoinder was necessary. It improved the process of communication.

The BBC, which has had its feet up in the clubhouse for some years, has been shaken out of the old armchair by BSkyB which, apart from doing a deal with the Tour to cover the majority of tournaments, has the prized Ryder Cup at least until the year 2001.

Scores, Sporting Digest, page 21



Italian renaissance: Costantino Rocca celebrates winning the PGA Championship yesterday. Photograph: Peter Jay

Leicestershire have rare high

Cricket

MICHAEL AUSTIN
reports from Edgbaston
Warwickshire 164 and 241-8
Leicestershire 353-8 dec
Match drawn

Not many Leicestershire teams have suffered from vertigo in recent summers but this one, under James Whitaker's captaincy, might just become accustomed to peering down dizzily from the top of the table.

They outplayed Warwickshire, partly through Adrian Pierson's 5 for 68, but simply lacked the time, rather than the resources, in a rain-affected match to inflict the champions' second successive defeat.

Challenged to make 189 to save the game, Warwickshire endured a protracted struggle, squeezing a few runs beyond

their objective with only two wickets intact.

Typically, they relied on a trusty journeyman, Dougie Brown, to sustain them with a half-century from 123 balls. Brown, from Stirling, took guard at 57 for 3 and batted staunchly for two and three-quarter hours before being caught in the gully.

Keith Piper and Ashley Giles batted Warwickshire to safety with an unbroken ninth-wicket partnership of 45, but only after Giles had been dropped second half off Pierson, who otherwise enjoyed another productive match against his former county. When Maddy tumbled the chance at short-leg, 13 overs remained and Warwickshire were only 11 runs ahead.

Pierson, a gangling left-arm spinner, returned a career-best 8 for 42 for Leicestershire at Edgbaston two years ago after

being released by Warwickshire. This time, he extracted turn once again and emphasised that the pitch was more responsive to Leicestershire's attack than to that of the champions.

Brown apart, Warwickshire's batting bordered on the abject as a fourth defeat in five games at all competitions confronted a team who appear to have undergone a confidence bypass during the winter.

Warwickshire remain the team to beat, as Glamorgan, today's Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final opponents know. Apart from delaying Warwickshire's journey, Leicestershire also cut into their title-winning credibility by a smooth acceleration to a morning declaration.

In 50 minutes, Leicestershire plundered 64 runs with Phil Simmons adding 43 from only 31 balls to his Saturday century.

Malcolm does the double over Gooch

Devon Malcolm completed a double over his former England captain Graham Gooch before the Britannia Assurance County Championship match at Derby meandered to an inevitable draw yesterday.

Malcolm bowled Gooch for the second time in the match with the first ball of the Essex second innings, but by then a stalemate was inevitable.

Four entire sessions had already been lost before heavy overnight rain prevented any play before lunch on the final day. When the players finally took the field at 2pm, there were only bonus points at stake and Derbyshire picked up two more batting points while the Essex bowlers collected a maximum haul.

Shane Lee, the Australian all-

rounder, hit a century off 116 balls to guide Somerset to a four-wicket victory over Northamptonshire at Taunton. Two quick declarations at the start of the day had left the home side needing 330 off a minimum of 89 overs.

Surrey, in all sorts of difficulties at Gloucester, were spared the knockout blow as the last ensured that they avoided an embarrassing defeat.

Gloucestershire set them 309 to make in two sessions for an unlikely win, but after tea a collapse almost finished them off and they were left clinging on at 174 for 8 at the close.

They had been rallied from a desperate position thanks to Mark Butcher and the acting skipper Adam Hovell, who kept on 84 in 77 balls.

McGrath's plod angers crowd

DAVID LLEWELLYN

reports from Canterbury
Yorkshire 350-8 and 223-4
Kent 299
Match drawn

It was not a pretty sight, watching cricket as grey as the clouds that eventually drove everyone off for bad light and mercifully ended proceedings an hour early. The spectators, Yorkshire and Kent alike, showed their disapproval as Yorkshire batted on and on in their second innings with no intention of attempting to set up a result.

Slow handclaps accompanied Anthony McGrath's 19-over plod from 92 to his maiden championship century, and the fall of his wicket - caught in the deep to give Trevor Ward his seventh first-class victim - was loudly pro-

claimed by the honking of horns from cars at the Nackington Road End.

Kent's acting captain, Steve Marsh, did everything, including calling on everyone to bowl, as he tried to tempt Yorkshire's obdurate batsmen into flinging the bat to set a target. The Yorkshire captain, David Byas, was adamant that he was not prepared to present Kent with a short run chase - no doubt recalling Matthew Fleming's remarkable Sunday onslaught when he hit 63 off 20 balls.

Byas, who made a fine 79, maintained that if Kent had wanted a deal they should have declared at tea on Saturday. That would have allowed Byas and his band to construct a more worthy target.

And he probably had a point, but it was still a shame for everyone. Kent, the crowd and young McGrath. This burgeoning talent

had batted beautifully throughout, showing great restraint as he neared his century.

To a background of catcalls to get on with it, the 20-year-old England batsman resisted all temptation and contributed to a remarkable spell from Nigel Long, who reeled off eight maidens in a row before a run was taken off his tidy off-spin.

In all, McGrath was in for almost five hours. He had his share of luck. He was dropped twice on 20 and 55 but he deserved his breaks.

He also deserved his century. It was a pity for him that the single which took him there had to come off a Long doozy drop, with the Kent fielders spread out in the deep. The match was a triumph for Ward, who followed his first innings century with a career best of 2 for 10, but it was a collective failure as far as the mad-dened crowd was concerned.

NATIONAL HUNT RACING RESULTS

CARTMEL	HEREFORD	UTTUKETER
2.00: 1. CLOVER GIRL (F) early 16-1; 2. Calhoun 5-1; 3. Emerald Venture 10-1; 4. Strawberry Girl 12-1; 5. 17-1; 6. 5-1; 7. 11-1; 8. 11-1; 9. 11-1; 10. 11-1; 11. 11-1; 12. 11-1; 13. 11-1; 14. 11-1; 15. 11-1; 16. 11-1; 17. 11-1; 18. 11-1; 19. 11-1; 20. 11-1; 21. 11-1; 22. 11-1; 23. 11-1; 24. 11-1; 25. 11-1; 26. 11-1; 27. 11-1; 28. 11-1; 29. 11-1; 30. 11-1; 31. 11-1; 32. 11-1; 33. 11-1; 34. 11-1; 35. 11-1; 36. 11-1; 37. 11-1; 38. 11-1; 39. 11-1; 40. 11-1; 41. 11-1; 42. 11-1; 43. 11-1; 44. 11-1; 45. 11-1; 46. 11-1; 47. 11-1; 48. 11-1; 49. 11-1; 50. 11-1; 51. 11-1; 52. 11-1; 53. 11-1; 54. 11-1; 55. 11-1; 56. 11-1; 57. 11-1; 58. 11-1; 59. 11-1; 60. 11-1; 61. 11-1; 62. 11-1; 63. 11-1; 64. 11-1; 65. 11-1; 66. 11-1; 67. 11-1; 68. 11-1; 69. 11-1; 70. 11-1; 71. 11-1; 72. 11-1; 73. 11-1; 74. 11-1; 75. 11-1; 76. 11-1; 77. 11-1; 78. 11-1; 79. 11-1; 80. 11-1; 81. 11-1; 82. 11-1; 83. 11-1; 84. 11-1; 85. 11-1; 86. 11-1; 87. 11-1; 88. 11-1; 89. 11-1; 90. 11-1; 91. 11-1; 92. 11-1; 93. 11-1; 94. 11-1; 95. 11-1; 96. 11-1; 97. 11-1; 98. 11-1; 99. 11-1; 100. 11-1; 101. 11-1; 102. 11-1; 103. 11-1; 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Agassi regains control of game and tongue

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Paris

No sooner had Monica Seles played her part in a dedication ceremony to re-name Court A in honour of Suzanne Lenglen at the French Open here yesterday than Andre Agassi appeared to confuse the place with the nearby Avenue Gordon Bennett. The American's penchant for expletives brought him within one curse of disqualification.

Agassi became increasingly irritable as he attempted to hold his game together in almost constant drizzle on a cold, miserable opening day at Stade Roland Garros. He was warned for one audible obscenity and penalised a point for another.

That took the No 3 seed to the brink when he hardly needed the additional handicap of disciplinary worries. His erratic form had already awakened hope in his opponent, Jacobo Diaz, a Spanish qualifier ranked No 261 in the world. Agassi managed to regain control of his shots and his tongue after a 90-minute rain delay in the fourth set, advancing to the second round, 6-1, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

"I have a tendency to make it more difficult on myself than it needs to be," Agassi acknowledged, while rejecting the notion

that he ever feared he would be leaving the grounds in disgrace. "I felt pretty much in control as far as that goes," he said.

The umpire, Australia's Wayne McKewen, was also involved in a minor incident during one of Agassi's matches at the 1990 United States Open. On that occasion Agassi spat in McKewen's direction, but he was given the benefit of the doubt by the supervisor after pleading that he was not aiming at the umpire.

Agassi's struggle within himself yesterday was symptomatic of the sense of anxiety which pervaded the start of the championships, with so many competitors desperate to reassure

themselves that they were healthy enough and sufficiently well prepared to make a decent challenge. Although Mary Pierce seemed in danger of catching her death of cold in a halter-neck dress, the leading players emerged unscathed.

In Seles's case, the only threat came during the Court Lenglen ceremony, when one of the dignitaries evidently forgot about her injury and gave her damaged shoulder a friendly pat. Otherwise, her first appearance here since completing a hat-trick of singles triumphs four years ago—before Gunther Pasche and his knife disrupted her life—went well.

Agassi's serve, however, will have to be reserved until she faces a more challenging opponent than the 22-year-old Caroline Dhenin, a sturdy French wild card ranked No 168 in the world. There was certainly no lack of potency in Seles's returns as she swept to victory, 6-1, 6-1, in 52 minutes.

"Last Thursday I stopped my practice because I literally could not serve," Seles said. "Sunday was the first day I served easily. I just have to make the best of it, take it match at a time, but I definitely have to serve some better serves."

Pete Sampras felt no twinges from his back injury when defeating Sweden's Magnus

Gustafsson, 6-1, 7-5, 7-6, but the top seed knows that his problems here are just about to begin. A year ago, his second round match against Sergi Bruguera would have been hailed as an ideal final.

Bruguera, the champion in 1993 and 1994, is not ranked high enough to be seeded this time. Yesterday he advanced to meet Sampras with a straight set win against Javier Sanchez, a Spanish compatriot. "My road here just gets tougher," Sampras mused, remembering that Bruguera eliminated him in four sets when they played in the quarter-finals in 1993.

While Bruguera's game was made for clay courts, Sampras

is still learning to come in terms with the sport's slowest surface. "I'm trying to play on my terms, be aggressive, not be so passive like I have been in the past," the American said.

Tim Henman is another who needs to find his feet on clay, although the British No 1's debut here was not helped by five weeks' absence because of a virus. Henman's participation ended with a 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 defeat by Kris Gossens, of Belgium.

Being French, there were tears from Henri Leconte in his retirement year. He bade farewell by climbing into the umpire's chair and addressing the crowd after losing to Sweden's Thomas Johansson, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4.

Paris no match for the Blue Sox

Rugby League

Paris St-Germain 10
Halifax Blue Sox 38

Assa Amone spoilt Paris's bright start to the Super League season as he inspired a comfortable Halifax victory with a hat-trick of tries.

The Blue Sox became the second Yorkshire club in a row to beat the French side at the Charley Stadium after Leeds' success there a fortnight ago.

In an error-strewn affair with both sides struggling to find their rhythm, it was Halifax who showed the superior power, epitomised by Carl Gillespie's two tries and a hat-trick display from their captain, Karl Harrison.

Amone, the full back, was also well supported by the centre Graeme Hallas and the hard-working hooker Paul Rowley, as well as the loose forward Simon Baldwin.

Leading 16-6 at half-time, Halifax got stronger in the second half with John Bentley and Hallas both going over at the corner before the substitute Paul Highton claimed the final try one minute before the end.

Patrick Entart, captain in place of the injured Pierre Chaminade, was the hero of the Paris players, who tried hard enough but looked tired.

Holmes finds form in time for Madrid

Athletics

Britain's Kelly Holmes overcame a stuttering start to the season by running the fastest 800 metres in the world this year at a meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The double world championship medalist clocked 1min 58.87sec to confirm her place in the two-lap event in Britain's team for the European Cup in Madrid this weekend.

Holmes' confidence had taken a knock after she finished seventh over 1500m at the Atlanta Grand Prix a week earlier.

She was one of 13 British winners at a meeting which included a sprint double for Darro Braithwaite and a UK pole vault record for Kate Staples.

Braithwaite won the 100m in 10.14sec and then enjoyed another success over 200m in 21.02sec. Staples raised the record to 3.90m, then failed to break the 4.00 barrier. Du'ane Ladajin turned up for the European Cup with a victory in the 400m.

Claridge crushes Palace revival

Football

MIKE ROWBOTTOM
reports from Wembley
Crystal Palace
Leicester City
after extra time

A goal in the last minute of extra time from Steve Claridge took Leicester City straight back to the Premiership here yesterday afternoon. It also sent half of Wembley mad with disbelief.

The 30-year-old forward, who has endeared himself to the Filbert Street faithful since joining from Birmingham City in March for £1m, justified that fee in a single moment as his mischievous shot from the edge of the box flew past a wrong-footed Nigel Martyn to win the fourth Endsleigh League First Division play-off final. Leicester have contested in five years.

Claridge admitted that he had "shinned" the ball, confessing this, however, cost him nothing. "It's just the perfect end," he said as the Leicester fans filled the stadium with noise. "I can't think of a better feeling in the world."

Seconds before Claridge's decisive intervention, Leicester had brought on their 6ft 7in

reserve goalkeeper, Zeljko Kalac, in anticipation of a penalty shoot-out for which a weary Crystal Palace side—effectively down to 10 men after their last substitute, Simon Rodger, had been injured—were desperately hanging on.

As it turned out, Kalac's only contribution was to carry Claridge halfway up the stairs to the Royal Box for the presentation. But if Claridge was the player of the moment, the man who received the biggest cheer as he hoisted the trophy was the Leicester manager, Martin O'Neill.

He had suffered widespread criticism after taking the job in December as his side lost their first nine games in his charge. His two predecessors, Brian Little and Mark McGhee, had dismayed the club by joining other clubs in mid-season. O'Neill has said he would not do the same even if Milan were to come in for him, and his loyalty was rewarded as his players earned a play-off position with seven wins in their last 10 games.

O'Neill, who had guided Wycombe Wanderers to victory in the Third Division play-off final here two years earlier, believed that his side had been the better team. Certainly, after equalising Palace's early goal with a 77nd-

minute penalty from Garry Parker, they seemed the team with the greater desire to win.

Palace, who, like Leicester, had been relegated from the Premiership at the end of last season, had also finished the campaign strongly. After the arrival of Dave Bassett as manager in February they had risen from 16th place, winning 14 and drawing four of their last 22 League games. But yesterday proved a challenge too far as they entered in the face of Leicester's tierce.

Crystal Palace had an ideal start when Andy Roberts put them ahead with a cross shot in the 14th minute after a characteristically canny pass from the 34-year-old Ray Houghton.

As Leicester's resolve wavered, Palace almost made it 2-0 when a sudden shot from the unpredictable George Ndah was tipped away by Kevin Poole. As the game wore on, however, Leicester, with Mustapha Izzet, Neil Lennon and Scott Taylor unquenchable in midfield, began to run Palace into confusion.

After 49 minutes, a header from the Leicester captain, Steve Walsh, was headed off the line by Ndah. And when Marc Edworthy's desperate challenge on Izzet conceded a penalty, Parker converted without fuss.

Palace had to play the last 18 minutes with their last substitute, Rodger, a passenger after Izzet's introductory challenge. But as the prospect of a shoot-out loomed, Claridge reacted first to a ball headed down by Ndah and crushed their hopes.

Crystal Palace (3-5-2): Henry (10); Rodger (10); Roberts (10); Parker (10); Ndah (10); Izzet (10); Lennon (10); Taylor (10); Walsh (10); Edworthy (10); O'Neill (10). Leicester City (4-4-2): Houghton (10); Roberts (10); Parker (10); Ndah (10); Izzet (10); Lennon (10); Taylor (10); Walsh (10); Edworthy (10); O'Neill (10).

Keane goes missing

Roy Keane was missing from the Republic of Ireland squad yesterday as they prepared for Wednesday's friendly with Portugal in Dublin.

The Manchester United midfielder, who was last week made captain for the Republic's three-match American tour next month, failed to turn up for the Mick McCarthy testimonial at Lansdowne Road. McCarthy,

the Republic manager, said: "I'm disappointed that Roy has not been in contact with me so far. I'll now have to go looking for him."

Ilie Dumitrescu, the Romanian midfielder, will miss next month's European Championship finals. The West Ham player has a severe muscle strain in his right leg which will need at least two weeks to heal.



Palace's Dougie Freedman (right) is thwarted by Kevin Poole and Steve Walsh yesterday. Photograph: Robert Hallam

McLaren blow to weakened Scotland

PHIL SHAW

reports from Miami

Scotland suffered a further setback to their preparations for the European Championship last night when Alan McLaren, the Rangers defender, was forced to concede his place in the squad for the finals to Middlesbrough's Derek Whyte.

The Scots, who moved on to Florida to play Colombia to-

morrow after the 2-1 defeat by the United States on Sunday, arrived to find confirmation from Glasgow that McLaren will not have recovered from knee surgery last Friday in time to play in America.

"It's a major blow," Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, said. "We've lost two key players from defence, midfield and attack—McLaren, Paul McStay and Duncan Ferguson—so our resources are stretched."

gave an "indifferent" display against the Americans. However, like most of the Scottish players, the former Celtic centre-back was playing his first match in more than three weeks.

Scotland will field something resembling their tournament line-up against Colombia. Gordon Durie, outstanding in attack until his half-time withdrawal with a neck injury on Sunday, is doubtful. Andy Goram is set to return in goal, while Ally Mc-

Coist, who admitted the United States game was "a good one to miss", is in line to play up front.

The American captain, John Harkes, felt the Scots looked "like a team on vacation". Whyte retorted that he had obviously not seen them training, while Brown said: "We've taken difficult away from home warm-up fixtures. Obviously we don't want to lose them, but the big picture starts next month and we're still very confident."

Vinson makes mark for Monarchs

American football

The London Monarchs continued their remarkable improvement with a 16-13 win in a bruising and occasionally ill-tempered affair against the Amsterdam Admirals before a 11,000 crowd at White Hart Lane yesterday, writes Nick Hailstone.

The result leaves both teams with three wins from their seven outings, but the race to join the Scottish Claymores in next month's World Bowl remains wide open, with the Monarchs now firmly in the picture.

Both defences were in a dominant mood, but the difference was the London run-

ning-back Tony Vinson, who set a World League record with 212 rushing yards. After his 137-yard effort against Frankfurt last week, the man from the Atlanta Falcons confirmed his status as one of the League's most prolific performers.

The first half was a dull, defence-dominated affair. Roger Ruzek's 29-yard field goal with 29 seconds remaining the only score as both offences struggled to establish their rhythm. The Monarchs' quarterback, Preston Jones, threw two interceptions, while his Amsterdam counterpart, Will Furrer, allowed three.

After a fumble by the London running-back Gaston Green,

Amsterdam went ahead early in the third quarter, Furrer throwing a six-yard pass to Trevor Cobb. After Vinson's electrifying 67-yard run, however, the Monarchs went back in front following Russell White's five-yard pass to Lizzy Collins with less than six minutes remaining. It looked all over.

However, the Admirals set up a tense finish when Cobb scored again with less than three minutes remaining. The New Zealand wide receiver Willie Hinchcliff converted an important third down with a 12-yard catch, and some more running from Vinson enabled the home side to hold on.

Athletics

Sonia O'Sullivan, of Ireland, set the fastest time in the world this year when she won the 3,000 metres at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Oregon, on Sunday in 8 min 53.22sec. She beat Roger Black, of England, finished second in the 400m when Carl Lewis finished second in the 200m to follow American Jon Drummond.

Gheorghe Sava, the world champion from Syria, won the women's heptathlon at Goetzke in Austria with a total of 5,942 points. British 100m sprinter Linford Christie, who finished second in the 100m, set a new world record in the 200m, clocking 1 min 42.25sec.

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS (Ljubljana, Slovenia) 800m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 1:58.87; 1,500m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 4:12.12; 2,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 5:48.12; 3,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 8:58.12; 4,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 12:12.12; 5,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 17:12.12; 6,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 22:12.12; 7,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 27:12.12; 8,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 32:12.12; 9,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 37:12.12; 10,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 42:12.12; 11,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 47:12.12; 12,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 52:12.12; 13,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 57:12.12; 14,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 62:12.12; 15,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 67:12.12; 16,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 72:12.12; 17,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 77:12.12; 18,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 82:12.12; 19,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 87:12.12; 20,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 92:12.12; 21,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 97:12.12; 22,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 102:12.12; 23,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 107:12.12; 24,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 112:12.12; 25,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 117:12.12; 26,000m: Kelly Holmes (GB) 122:12.12; 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FOOTBALL: Leicester make it back to the Premiership 21

GOLF: Rocca holds off Faldo to win the PGA Championship 20

Beardsley first to get the bad news

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent reports from Hong Kong

It did not seem significant at the time, but the symbolism of a brief exchange towards the end of England's match with China on Thursday became apparent yesterday.

With 19 minutes left, and England leading 3-0, Peter Beardsley came on for Nick Barmby, the scorer of two of the goals. Then Tony Adams was substituted and, as he left, he passed the captain's armband to Beardsley. Two days later Beardsley discovered that those 14 minutes as captain of his country were to be the last of his international career.

Terry Venables, who this morning names his 22-man squad for Euro 96, yesterday revealed that Beardsley would not

be in it. With a new manager taking over in July, it seems certain that the 35-year-old with 59 caps to his name will not be winning a 60th.

"It was nice when Tony passed me the armband," Beardsley said yesterday. "Then I looked round and I realised I was about 10 years older than everyone else."

"I think I knew then. I had not started for a while and Nick had come in against China and been magnificent. That probably tipped the balance in his favour. If I'd played against China it might have gone the other way, but that's the way it goes."

Beardsley's last start for England was against Sweden in June. The China game was the second of two substitute appearances this season, both replacing Barmby who, at 21, is 14 years his junior.

Barmby idolises Beardsley

and they have been rooming together. Which made it embarrassing for both parties when Beardsley told Barmby he was out. "He joked at first, he could not believe it," Beardsley said.

"In a funny way he's disappointed for me. It is hard to know what to say in that position. If it had been the reverse even I, with my experience, would have found it hard. It sounds big-headed, but the way he looks up to me and treats me made it difficult."

"He would not even tell his wife - we both speak to our wives with the other in the room and he was too embarrassed to say 'I've a great chance because Peter's out' with me there. In the end I said, 'I'll tell her if you can't'."

"I look at him and I see myself 13 or 14 years ago. If anything is a bonus out of this it is that he is in."



In next Monday's Independent
A comprehensive guide to
Euro 96, including
an in-depth interview with
Terry Venables

The decision comes close behind the disappointment of Newcastle's championship failure, but Beardsley said: "They are two lows, but if you look at the amount of highs I have had I cannot really complain. I got 10 caps under Terry I would not have got under Graham Taylor."

The first of those was also his 50th, after three years on 49. "That was the highlight," Beardsley said of his international career, adding: "The best match I played was the World Cup semi-final against West Germany."

Beardsley made his England debut in January 1986 and his partnership with Gary Lineker helped England to reach the World Cup quarter-finals that year. He scored nine goals in his 59 matches, but made many more. The contribution his football intelligence and enthusiasm made was equally large, a familiar sight at every England training session was Beardsley collecting the balls while his teammates headed for the team bus.

Not many players would have volunteered to speak to the

media after being dropped from the squad, and his decency and helpfulness was recognised afterwards by a rare ovation from the press.

"He had asked to be told if he wasn't going to make it, so I told him after training on Saturday," Venables said. "He's been the perfect example. He is the best professional I have worked with. I'm not just saying that today, I have said it all the way through. He could feel he has not had the chances he should have had and I would accept that, but others can feel the same."

Gary Pallister is also out of the squad. With Tony Adams and Steve Howey recently injured, Venables said he could not risk Pallister's back problem.

It is a very difficult squad to predict. Venables has aimed to include as many versatile players, like Sol Campbell, as possible and provide cover for

every place. But he has not been able to give the likes of Campbell, Ugo Ehiogu and Jason Wilcox as much experience as he would have liked. Then there is the question of specialists - does he include Wilcox, the only genuine winger, and two or three centre-forwards?

Sixteen players are definite: Seaman, Walker, Flowers (three goalkeepers are compulsory), Gary Neville, Philip Neville, Pearce, Adams, Southgate, Ince, Gascoigne, Platt, Anderson, McManaman, Barmby, Shearer, Shearer, Roy Lee is a likely 17th inclusion.

Two of the remaining five places will go to defenders. Campbell for his versatility gets one while Howey's greater experience wins him the nod over Ehiogu if he is fit. That leaves three places.

Steve Stone has impressed for England but not on this tour.

Jamie Redknapp has yet to recover from after his mid-season injury. Wilcox offers a different dimension but Dennis Wise is an old favourite and managers, under pressure, tend to stick with the tried and trusted.

Neither of the front pair have the close-control required to fit England's measured build-up, but at least one must be in. Robbie Fowler could emerge as a force in the championship but Les Ferdinand, unlike Fowler or Alan Shearer, has at least scored for England in the last 18 months.

A personal choice would be Stone for balance on the right, Wilcox for variety. Ferdinand for his greater experience. Venables may well prefer Wise to Wilcox, one while Howey's greater experience wins him the nod over Ehiogu if he is fit. That leaves three places.

Steve Stone has impressed for England but not on this tour.

Illingworth clouds England's success

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Old Trafford India 236-4
England 239-6
England win by 4 wickets

The sun came out at Old Trafford yesterday as England beat India for the second time in three days to take the Texaco trophy 3-0. But no sooner has it begun to shine on English cricket than the headline hogging cloud of the Raymond Illingworth affair overshadows everything by moving back to centre stage. With the matter now being referred to the discipline committee by its chairman, Gerard Elias, OC, it could be some time before the cricket re-asserts itself on the summer.

Mind you, it is unprecedented for a chairman of selectors to be called before the discipline committee, and it is a clear sign that the Test and County Cricket

Board is taking things seriously. Tellingly, the outburst in print by Devon Malcolm on his return from South Africa never got this far, which will lend further support to Illingworth's own theory that he is being unnecessarily picked on.

However, with only the nature of the comments being under scrutiny rather than the cynical timing of them, it seems unlikely that Illingworth will be censured severely. The committee's powers range from a reprimand (the likeliest outcome) to complete removal from his job as the chairman of selectors.

Yesterday Illingworth was adamant that he would not bow to pressure from certain counties to step down. "I shall be defending myself and putting my case very strongly," he said, adding, "I feel my comments have been fair and constructive."

In theory, these will be the last words uttered by Illingworth as the whole tawdry soap opera

now become *sub judice* until the hearing, which, in true TCCB fashion, will apparently take place "as soon as possible". When that will be anybody's guess, and it is unlikely to take place before this weekend's selection meeting for the first Test, which begins a week on Thursday. Illingworth, after all, needs time to prepare his case and call witnesses.

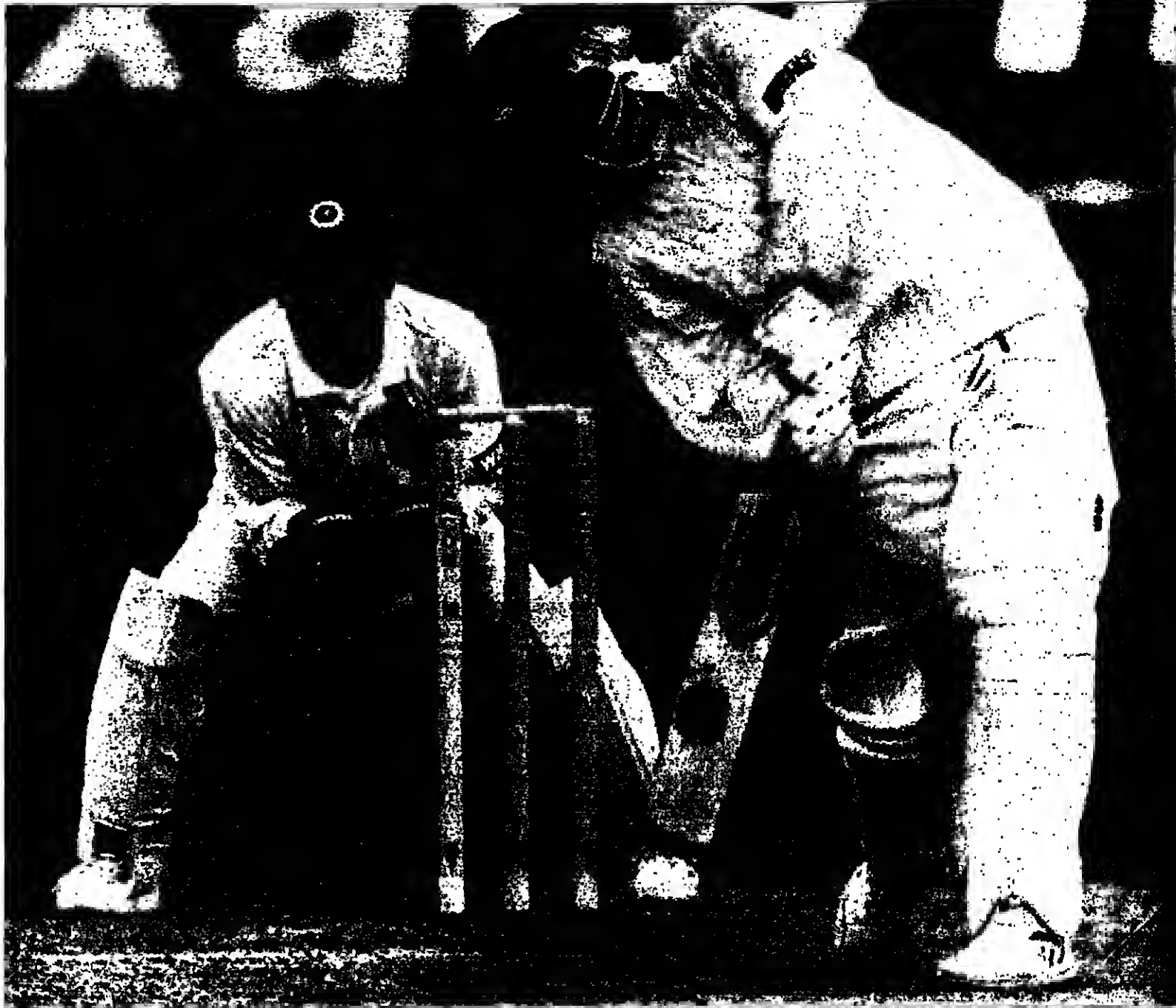
He is also allowed to object to those on the discipline committee, which needs five members present out of 12 to be quorate. Ironically, one of those who would normally sit on such matters is David Graveney, who recently put himself forward as a candidate to challenge Illingworth's position as England supremo, a challenge he was later forced to withdraw because of his position as secretary of the Players' Association. However, his presence is required only when a player is called before the committee, and Illingworth need have no fears of being Caesared.

It is just a shame for Atherton and his team that the intrigue off the field is overshadowing the good work on it. Yesterday was no exception, and England, propelled by a thrilling century from Alistair Brown, once again beat India, winning by four wickets with seven balls to spare.

These days any England win is satisfying, but this one will have proved doubly so for Brown, who in his three-match career to date has already experienced the roller-coaster ride given to modern sportsmen by a media demanding immediate and incisive results.

After his less than auspicious debut on a seaming pitch at the Oval, he'll probably find, should Illingworth allow him the space, that his knockers are insisting he gets a knighthood.

Ironically, Brown's innings



Alistair Brown hits a six off Venkatesh Raju in yesterday's one-day international at Old Trafford

Photograph: David Ashdown

did not unfold as a pinch hitter's ought to have done. He was cautious to start with, having lost Neil Smith to a brilliant slower ball from Venkatesh Prasad, and after 15 overs, England were 48 for 2.

A similar fate awaited Hick, who just managed to chip the ball to mid-on, though by then, 85 runs had been added and Brown, batting on a decent pitch for the first time in the series, was able to hit clean and straight, although there were few moments to, like the lovely late cut for four he played off Anil Kumble. Another partnership worth 69 with Thorpe essentially sealed the game.

In the end, it took a spliced hook to get rid of him, caught at square leg by Rahul Dravid off the persevering Jagmal Singh. His 118 took 137 balls, with 12 boundaries. Two of them sixes deposited into the sightscreen straight behind the head of the bowler, Venkatesh Raju.

"I told Chris Lewis on Sunday night [when Brown was 1 not out] that I was going to get a hundred tomorrow," Brown said. "You don't always do it, but I felt really good. Mind you, I

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A similar fate awaited Hick, who just managed to chip the ball to mid-on, though by then, 85 runs had been added and Brown, batting on a decent pitch for the first time in the series, was able to hit clean and straight, although there were few moments to, like the lovely late cut for four he played off Anil Kumble. Another partnership worth 69 with Thorpe essentially sealed the game.

In the end, it took a spliced hook to get rid of him, caught at square leg by Rahul Dravid off the persevering Jagmal Singh. His 118 took 137 balls, with 12 boundaries. Two of them sixes deposited into the sightscreen straight behind the head of the bowler, Venkatesh Raju.

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OLD TRAFFORD SCOREBOARD	
INDIA	236-4
V. Vaidya c & lbw b Thorpe	54
(121 min, 85 balls, 5 fours)	
S. B. Tendulkar c Hick b Cook	38
(51 min, 21 balls)	
S. Ganguly c Stewart b Thorpe	46
(117 min, 53 balls, 3 fours)	
N. Agrawala not out	27
(17 min, 64 balls, 3 fours, 2 sixes)	
A. D. Jadhav c Stewart b Cook	29
(40 min, 32 balls, 1 four, 1 six)	
P. S. Doshi not out	22
(12 min, 15 balls, 3 fours)	
Extras (b, lb, wd)	4
Total (for 4, 139 min, 90 overs)	236
Fig: 1-11 (Venkatesh), 2-103 (Rathore), 3-118 (Ganguly), 4-150 (Davidson)	
IND not out: (N.R. Mankad, A. Parthiv, J. Sonth, B. V. Prasad, S. V. Iyer)	
Bowling: Cook 10-25-217 (3-12-1), 2-13-1, 1-10-0; Tendulkar 10-25-49 (3-16-1), 1-18-0, 2-13-0, 2-18-0; Ganguly 10-25-45 (2-11-1), 1-18-0, 2-13-0, 2-14-0; Mankad 10-25-40 (4-16-0), 1-18-0, 2-13-0, 2-15-0; South 6-30-4 (2-18-0), 2-21-0; Thorpe 4-10-25 (2-11-0) (1-18-0)	
Progress: Rain stopped play 11.12am-2.15pm at 12-1 (Mankad 10, Ganguly 0) 7 overs, 50 runs, 107 balls, 250-1 (1 min, 171 balls, 250-150 min, 240 balls, 200-180 min, 272 balls, 150 min, 114 balls, 60 balls, 4 runs, 140-150-2 (1-18-0), 2-21-0; Thorpe 4-10-25 (2-11-0) (1-18-0)	

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 2998, Tuesday 28 May By Aclred

Monday's Solution

ACROSS
1 Sentence reduced since die? (8)
5 Means time and US money in New York (6)
9 Stop old horse going to English robes (8)
10 Conservative suppressing checks it's easy to Don (4-2)
12 Revive gallery after curse is lifted (11)
15 Certainly don't like a bachelor taking house by river (3)
17 Make one of note into a thankless person? (9)
18 Comes ashore by headland getting the picture (9)
19 Once dined run into dirt (5)
20 Others with support are able, reportedly, to have argues (11)
24 Maybe open lament causes great anger (6)

DOWN
2 Perhaps people present will show muscle (8)
6 Fruit certainly eaten by father (6)
7 Short figure is an omission (8)
11 Bill's before Queen in clean up place of worship (10)
13 No charisma could be shown having this drink (10)
14 Golf course has wild animal reportedly (5)
16 Authorist one's betrothed to hide note of importance (12)
17 Moved slowly after reported culpability is relied on (4-5)
19 New primate's bit of neck (4)
21 Pull out any king? (4)
22 Tried at home organised by liberal entertaining type? (6,6)

13 Cries as leg is broken in violations (10)
14 Complaints of man one rubbishes? (4,6)
16 Irritate by accepting mistake in fruit (9)
21 I have shortened article about birthmarks (5)
22 Company's work is making animal shelter (4)
23 Cats say, come up to entrance of house? (4)

Milburn's example gives Brown hope

HENRY BLOFIELD

Alistair Brown seems to have been roundly labelled as a limited-overs batsman in the mildly derogatory manner which suggests that no one in his right mind would even cast a thought in his direction when it comes to choosing an England Test side.

It is intriguing to speculate, therefore, on the international career of no less a batsman than Colin Milburn if he had been born into the modern game. At the start of his county career the one-day label would have been stuck on him, and would he ever have shaken it off?

The anticipation and excitement he created as a hard-hitting opening batsman with Northamptonshire and later England, helped, of course, by his Falkland figure, was extraordinary. Just like Brown, who is physically less noticeable, any big innings he played was enormously memorable.

Milburn caught the imagination of the 1960s cricketing public and, in turn, of the

selectors. He broke the mould, providing an irresistible streak of individuality, and was taken seriously. He played in only nine Test matches between 1966 and 1968, because he was half-billed in a car accident.

Milburn batted in such a way that even though he played few Tests he became a cricketing legend. Milburn's batting came to have a soundness of technique Brown's cannot yet claim.

In the last few days we have seen, however, how much Brown has learned. He has moved through a sort of frenetic batting discord, which brought him 37 runs at The Oval, to a confidence-sapping duck at Headingley, and on to a splendid hundred at Old Trafford.

Brown will develop and will, one hopes, learn to tighten his game without losing the flavour of his batting. There is no good reason why, given the chance, he should not one day take the initiative in a Test too, just as Milburn did against the West Indies at Lord's in 1966 and against Australia on the same ground two years later.

India shaken by Sidhu's retirement

HENRY BLOFIELD

India's tour, which thanks to the desperate weather and their performances in the Texaco Trophy has yet really to get going, was hit again yesterday when Navjot Sidhu, pencilled in to open in the Tests, suddenly announced his retirement from the game.

Sidhu, 32, who averages 40.13 in Tests, was dropped for the final Texaco game, a decision which it is believed has especially angered him, although he declined to elaborate yesterday. "My dignity would be compromised if I carried on with this Indian team," was his only comment.

Sandip Patel, the Indian team manager, said he would be making strenuous efforts to persuade Sidhu to change his mind. "I'm sad because there is a lot of cricket left in him. He is a quiet guy, who is well regarded. We also need him more now because we are not performing particularly well."

He denied, though, that a fall-out between the tour management and Sidhu had contributed to their Texaco defeats.